SATSUKI YOSHINO

1

Handa-kun

Hand Kun

Volume One

SATSUKI YOSHINO

Contents

Chapter 1 *Handa-kun & Girls' Friendship* — 003

Chapter 2 *Handa-kun & His Good Friend* — 049

Chapter 3 *Handa-kun & the Class Rep* — 073

Chapter 4 *Handa-kun & the Model* — 097

Chapter 5 *Handa-kun & the Truant* — 123

Bonus — 155

SEI HANDA.
HIGH SCHOOL SECOND-YEAR.
HISO (SIGH)
HISO
HE HIMSELF IS A WELL-KNOWN PRODIGY IN THE CALLIGRAPHY WORLD
HIS FATHER IS SEIMEI HANDA, A MASTER CALLIGRA-PHER.
HANDA KUN...
I HEAR HE'S SMART TOO.
THE CALLIGRA PHER...
THE STUDENTS TALK ABOUT HIM IN HUSHED TONES.
WHEREVER HE WALKS, A PATH NATURALLY OPENS UP.
IT'S HANDA KUN
PEOPLE GAZE AT HIM ENVIOUSLY FROM AFAR...
...MAKES HIM COME OFF AS ALOOF.
HIS COOL BEARING, WHICH KEEPS OTHERS AT A DISTANCE

...AND THAT...
HANDA-KUN...
THEY'RE GLARING AT ME AGAIN.
...MAKES HIM THINK THAT THEY HATE HIM.

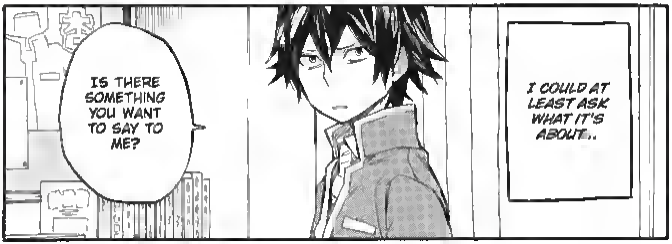
CHIRA CHIRA
WHOA!
HE LOOKED MY WAY!
NO WAY! COLLECTED
NYNGSH...
UWAH!
OH NO! I'M NOT WEARING MAKEUP!
RELAX.
I WASN'T THINKING THAT I WANTED TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH ANY OF YOU GUYS.
AS ALWAYS, EVERYONE SOLIDLY HATES ME.
HE'S ALREADY BUILT UP QUITE A BARRIER FOR SO EARLY IN THE MORNING
AND I WAS THINKING I'D FINALLY TALK TO HIM TODAY!
THAT'S THE FAMOUS "HANDA WALL."
I WASN'T THINKING THAT. .

26
2-7
28
HEH-HEH-HEH.. AFTER MY SCHOOL SHOES WENT MISSING NUMEROUS TIMES IN MIDDLE SCHOOL..
...I NOW TAKE THEM HOME WITH ME EVERY DAY
BULLIES ALWAYS GO AFTER YOUR SCHOOL SHOES FIRST.
へらり
!?
A CHAIN LETTER!?

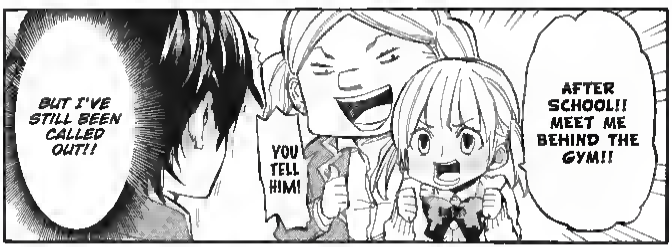
I CAN'T BELIEVE I GOT A CHAIN LETTER EVEN AFTER ENTERING HIGH SCHOOL...
HE USED TO GET LOTS OF THEM
IF I READ WHAT'S INSIDE, THEN I'LL HAVE TO GIVE A COPY OF THE LETTER TO AT LEAST THREE PEOPLE.
I DON'T EVEN HAVE THREE FRIENDS!!
NO, WAIT!!
I CAN'T BE ENTIRELY SURE THAT IT'S A CHAIN LETTER
I MAY HAVE GOTTEN A LETTER FOR SOME OTHER REASON.
WHAT OTHER LETTERS ARE PUT IN SHOE BOXES.....?
LETTERS OF CHAL-LENGE!!
CRUSHING A LOVE LETTER!?
HE THINKS NOTHING OF GIRLS

HEY!
I REFUSE TO BE CALLED OUT BEHIND THE GYM
I'LL PRETEND I DIDN'T SEE IT.
HOW COULD YOU BE SO CRUEL AS TO JUST THROW THAT AWAY!?
STOP IT, JULIE-CHAN
HOLD IT, HANDA!!
...KUN!
YOU COULD AT LEAST TAKE A LOOK AT IT!
I KNEW IT WOULD TURN OUT THIS WAY
ENOUGH! I'M FINE!
MAIKO WAS UP ALL NIGHT WRITING THAT LETTER!
SHOOT! I THREW IT AWAY IN VIEW OF THE SENDER!!!
STOP IT!
YOU REALLY ARE JUST A BIG SNOB!!

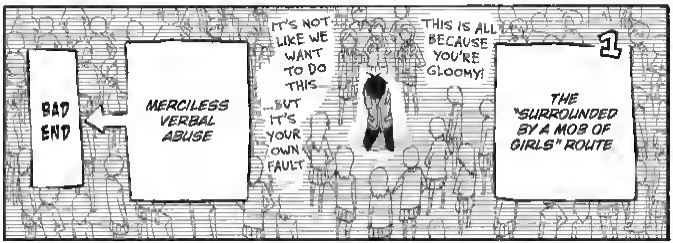
STOP IT!
WELL... AT LEAST I'M NOT AS LIKELY TO GET SUCKER-PUNCHED BY A GIRL.
SAY SOME-THING!
BUT WHAT'S A GIRL TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH BY SENDING ME A CHALLENGE LETTER?


IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SAY TO ME?
I COULD AT LEAST ASK WHAT IT'S ABOUT...

GOT YOU, HUH? YOU CAN'T GET AWAY WITH HARASSING ME IN FRONT OF ALL THESE WITNESSES.
WHAT?!
JUST SAY IT!
GO ON!
I HAVE TO SAY IT RIGHT HERE!?
EH?
A CONFESSION!
WHAT'S THIS?


BUT I'VE STILL BEEN CALLED OUT!!
YOU TELL HIM!
AFTER SCHOOL!! MEET ME BEHIND THE GYM!!

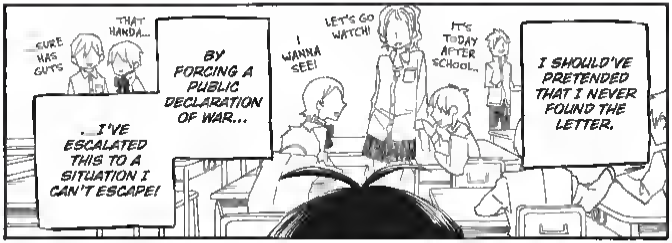
DAMN IT...
AND I'D DECIDED NOT TO READ THE LETTER IN MY SHOE BOX.
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME?


1
THE "SURROUNDED BY A MOB OF GIRLS" ROUTE
THIS IS ALL BECAUSE YOU'RE GLOOMY!
IT'S NOT LIKE WE WANT TO DO THIS
...BUT IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT
MERCILESS VERBAL ABUSE
BAD END

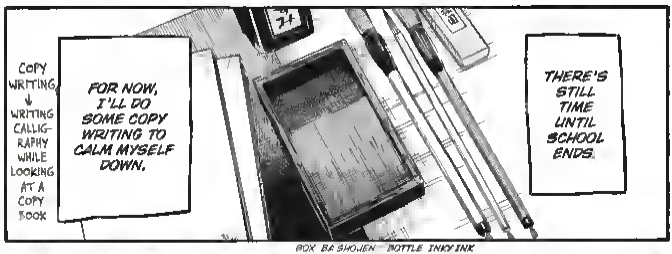
2
HER BOY-FRIEND HEADS A GANG OF THUGS.
DON'T YOU GO LEERIN' AT MY WOMAN!
TAKE IN OUT, HAA KUN!
CLICHÉD☆ GANG BEATING AT ABANDONED FACTORY
BAD END

SHIRT YAROU

I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING BEFORE CLASSES END FOR THE DAY!!
SOMEHOW, HANDA-KUN'S AURA IS EVEN MORE IMPRESSIVE THAN USUAL

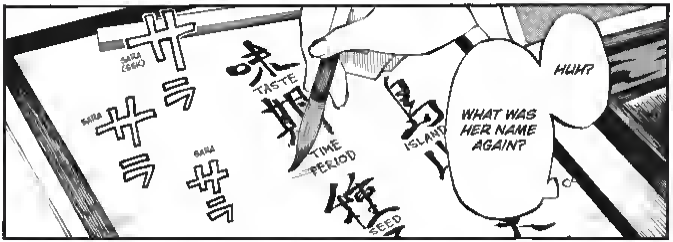

SURE HAS GUTS
THAT HANDA...
BY FORCING A PUBLIC DECLARATION OF WAR...
...I'VE ESCALATED THIS TO A SITUATION I CAN'T ESCAPE!
I WANNA SEE!
LET'S GO WATCH!
IT'S TODAY AFTER SCHOOL.
I SHOULD'VE PRETENDED THAT I NEVER FOUND THE LETTER.

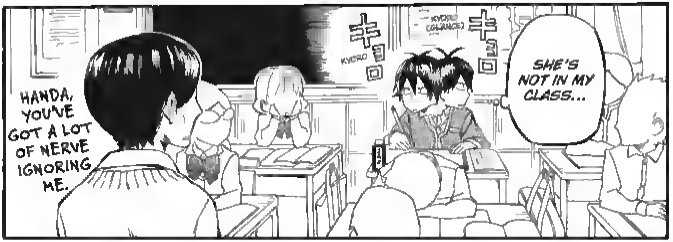
IF I RUN AWAY FROM THIS, THEY'LL CALL ME A COWARDLY PIG AND BULLY ME FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
I MUSTN'T RUN AWAY...
I MUSTN'T RUN AWAY...
×REPEATED

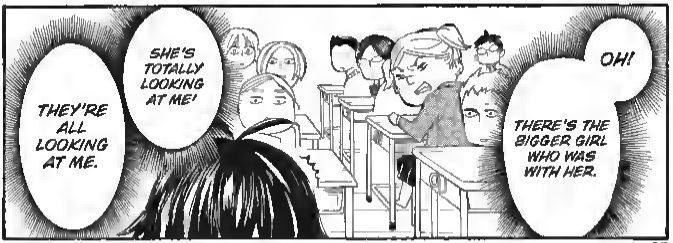

COPY WRITING
↓
WRITING CALLIGRAPHY WHILE LOOKING AT A COPY BOOK
FOR NOW, I'LL DO SOME COPY WRITING TO CALM MYSELF DOWN.
THERE'S STILL TIME UNTIL SCHOOL ENDS.
BOX BA SHOJEN BOTTLE INKY INK

HANDA-KUN?
THIS IS MATH, SEE?
HANDA-KUN?
HANDA-KUN? WE'VE STARTED CLASS
GO (MENACE)
GO
GO
GO

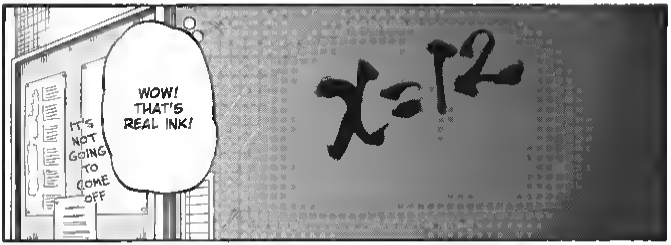
...I NEED TO TALK TO THAT GIRL ONE-ON-ONE BEFORE CLASSES END.
FOR NOW...
HANDA KUN..

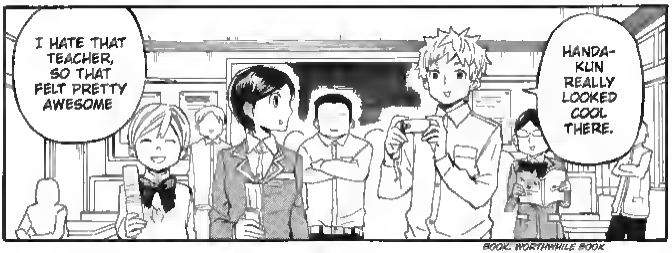

HUH?
WHAT WAS HER NAME AGAIN?
TASTE
TIME PERIOD
SEED


HANDA, YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF NERVE IGNORING ME.
SHE'S NOT IN MY CLASS...


THEY'RE ALL LOOKING AT ME.
SHE'S TOTALLY LOOKING AT ME!
OH!
THERE'S THE BIGGER GIRL WHO WAS WITH HER.

OH CRAP.. THE TEACHER'S MAD AT ME FOR SOME REASON
HANDA-KUN, I KNOW YOU'RE A CALLIGRAPHER
. . BUT I CAN'T STAY SILENT IF YOU WON'T PAY ATTENTION IN MY CLASS
SOLVE THIS PROBLEM ON THE BOARD
OKAY .
THEY MUST BE WAITING FOR ME TO MESS UP
WHAT IS THIS? EVERYONE'S GRINNING AT ME.
WELL, TOO BAD, THEN! MATH IS MY FORTE!
WHOAA!
WAIT. HANDA-KUN!
IT'S FINE!! I'M SORRY I INTERRUPTED YOUR CALLIGRAPHY!!


WOW! THAT'S REAL INK!
IT'S NOT GOING TO COME OFF
x=12


I HATE THAT TEACHER, SO THAT FELT PRETTY AWESOME
HANDA-KUN REALLY LOOKED COOL THERE.
BOOK: WORTHWHILE BOOK

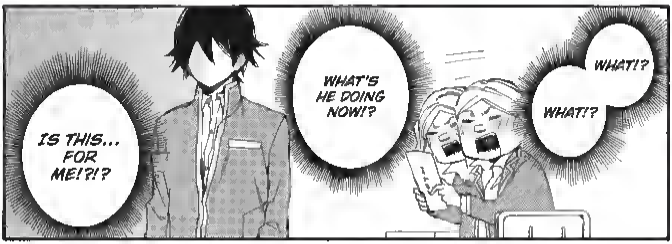
I CAN ACCEPT HER AND HANDA
THOUGH MAIKO-CHAN'S TOTALLY OUR IDOL...
WHAT A GUY
...HANDA DOES EASILY.
THE THINGS WE'D LIKE TO DO BUT WOULDN'T DARE TO...

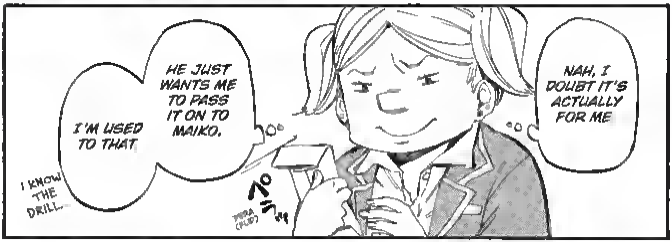
WHAT WAS HER NAME AGAIN?? I CAN'T REMEMBER OR MORE LIKE, I NEVER KNEW IT.
HANDA WALL
I WISH THEM THE BEST.
SO THIS IS THE START OF THE GREAT COUPLE, SEI HANDA AND MAIKO MORI ..

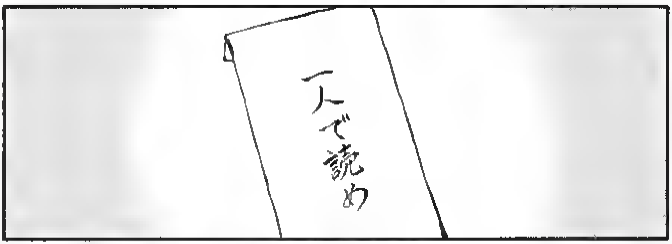
I COULD PROBABLY FIND OUT BY ASKING THE FEMALE FRIEND WHO WAS WITH HER...
...BUT THAT GIRL SEEMS VERY TOUGH TO APPROACH.
WAIT, SHE'S BEEN LOOKING AT ME THIS WHOLE TIME!
DOES THIS GIRL WANT TO FIGHT ME TOO!?
I WON'T BACK DOWN!
OH NO...
KAAA (BLUSH)
SERIOUSLY, WHAT'S HIS DEAL?
THAT HANDA GUY'S BEEN LOOKING AT ME FOR A WHILE NOW.
I WON'T LOSE.

VAGUE MEMORY
THAT GIRL
ISN'T THERE SOME WAY I COULD CALL THAT GIRL OUT WITHOUT DEALING WITH THIS ONE?
WON!
DAMN IT!
LITTLE CYUBIKO
I KNOW!
AH!
I'LL CONVEY MY REQUEST IN A LETTER.
OH NO! WHAT AM I DOING?
NOW I JUST HAVE TO TELL HER TO PASS IT ON TO THE OTHER GIRL.
HANDA'S THE BOY THAT MAIKO LIKES!

IF A GIRL LIKE HER ASKS HIM OUT, NOT EVEN THE ALOOF HANDA COULD RESIST
EVEN ANOTHER GIRL LIKE ME THINKS MAIKO LOOKS CUTE..
JUST FOR ONCE, I WISH THAT I COULD ASK OUT. .
..STILL. .
HEY.
...HANDA... -KUN...
EH!!!?
HERE THIS LETTER







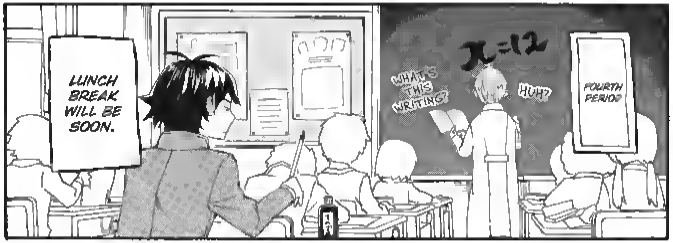
LETTER: READ THIS ALONE

"Wait behind the school building during lunch break."
I WROTE THE PERTINENT DETAILS ..
...SO NOW I JUST HAVE TO HOPE THAT GIRL WILL ACCEPT MY REQUEST.
PLEASE, LET THE MATTER BE SETTLED CALMLY..
NO ONE WILL COME HERE
NOW, WHAT DID HE WRITE?
IT'S IN CUR-SIVE!!

EH? WHAT IS THIS?
AM I TOO DUMB TO READ IT?
NO. THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD EXPECT THIS TO BE READABLE BY A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL!
OH, HECK!! I'LL READ IT, ANYWAY.
IT'S A LETTER FROM HANDA. . KUN!!
I'LL AT LEAST TRY TO GET THE GIST.
HMM ??
THIS PART LOOKS LIKE...
"…好き"— "Love"?
THIS IS A LOVE LETTER!?

STILL!! WITH THAT IN MIND, I CAN JUST MAKE OUT "FACE," "BODY," AND "ADORE."
THERE'S NO WAY!
YEAH, RIGHT, AS IF HANDA KUN WOULD SEND ME A LOVE LETTER!
AND WHY ME?
WHY THIS?
ガク
(SLUMP)
DAMN IT!
..TURN DOWN MAIKO FOR ME?
WHY WOULD YOU...
THAT HE DID
HE SNEEZED.
ACHOO!
YOU'RE A CAD, SE! HANDA...

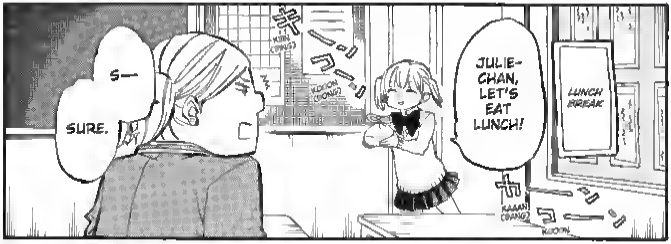
...am writing a love letter. ♡
Right now, I, Maiko.
...and while we have never been in the same class, I have always, always loved him.
To my best-best-best-loved Handa-kun,
When I saw you at the entrance ceremony, I fell in love with you. Handa-kun ♡
I fell in love with Handa-kun at first sight at the entrance ceremony..
Let it reach across the sky.
Let my love bear fruit.
YOU IDIOT! THAT'S THE WHOLE APPEAL!
SHE'S PUTTING HER ALL INTO IT!
SHUDDER CLENCHED
MORI'S CUTE, BUT THIS MUCH IS JUST LETHAL
LET IT CROSS THE OCEAN ON A DOLPHIN'S BACK.


LUNCH BREAK WILL BE SOON.
WHAT'S THIS WRITING?
HUH?
FOURTH PERIOD

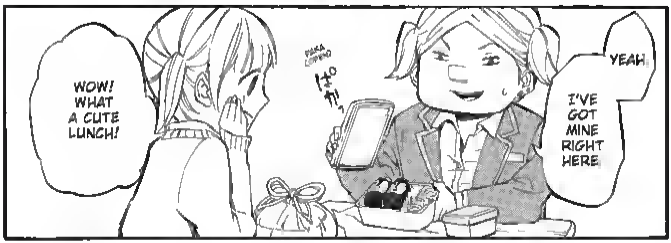
I'M WORRIED
DID MY LETTER OF PETITION REALLY GET DELIVERED?

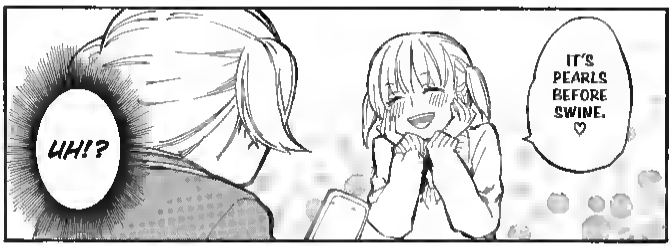
HANDA-KUN, CAN YOU ANSWER THIS ONE?
FOR ONE THING, FRIEND "A" IS ACTING SERIOUSLY WEIRD
BUT HANDA IS...
I CAN'T! MAIKO'S

HANDA-KUN, I'M NOT LETTING THAT SLIDE!
WHAA-? HOW RUDE
SIGH...
IT'S A WASTE OF TIME.
GETTING CALLED OUT AFTER SCHOOL...


S—
SURE.
KIIN (CHIME)
KAAAN (CHIME)
JULIE-CHAN, LET'S EAT LUNCH!
LUNCH BREAK
KAAAN (CHIME)
KOOON

DID YOU BRING A BOX LUNCH?
THANK GOOD-NESS
OH, HE'S GONE
CRAP, WHAT IF HANDA SEES US!?
THAT'D BE AWKWARD!!

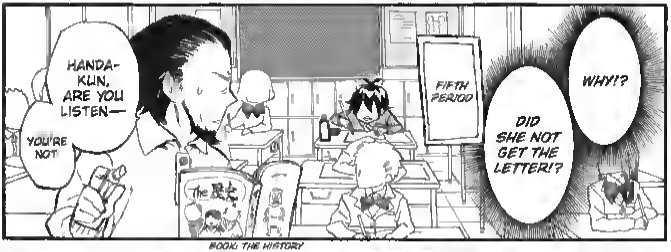

WOW! WHAT A CUTE LUNCH!
PAKA (OPEN)
YEAH. I'VE GOT MINE RIGHT HERE.


UH!?
IT'S PEARLS BEFORE SWINE. ♡

OOH! THOSE ARE SO CUTE!
DID SHE JUST... ...CASUALLY SAY SOMETHING MEAN?
HEY! THAT'S MY ROCK-HOPPER PENGUIN RICE BALL!
I'LL TAKE ONE!
UH.. SURE..
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE MY MOM, JULIE-CHAN!
THANKS FOR ALWAYS TREATING ME!
SHE'S SERIOUSLY TICKING ME OFF!
WOW! YOU'RE SO STRONG
WHAT'S WITH THIS GIRL!?

HMM? WHY DO YOU ASK?
SAY, MAIKO, HOW COME WE'RE GOOD FRIENDS?
THINKING BACK, I'VE NEVER ONCE ACTUALLY HAD FUN HANGING OUT WITH MAIKO.
OH, PLEASE, IS THAT WHAT YOU WERE THINKING?
AREN'T YOU ABLE TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH MUCH CUTER GIRLS THAN ME?
MAIKO...
I FEEL SAFER WITH YOU THAN ANYONE ELSE, JULIE-CHAN.
I AM NOT LETTING THIS GIRL HAVE HANDA-KUN!
IF I WAS WITH A GIRL CUTER THAN ME, THAT WOULD MAKE HER LOOK BETTER. IT'D BE AWFUL!
BUT WITH YOU, I'M SAFE!

KIEN (STAND)
KOOOON (SOUND)
キーン
コーン
Lunch break is now over.
Let's all have a diligent afternoon.
SIGH...
This has been the Broadcast Club.
WHY ...
... DIDN'T SHE COME!?

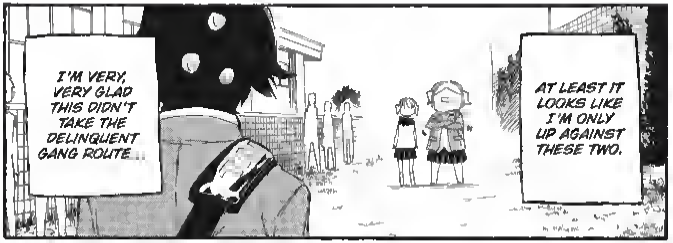


BOOK: THE HISTORY

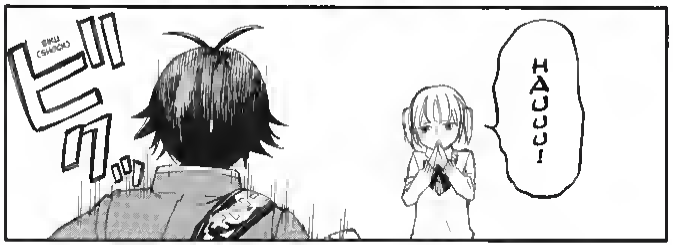
HE'LL HEAD THERE SOON
BUT HANDA KUN'S STILL HERE!
IT'S BEHIND THE GYM!
SHOULD I GO?
COULD I JUST RUN AWAY?
NO... THERE'S TOO MUCH MOMENTUM FOR ME TO RUN AWAY
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT SORT OF TREATMENT I'M ABOUT TO GET
THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE GATHERED BEHIND THE GYM
BUT I CAN'T AVOID IT.

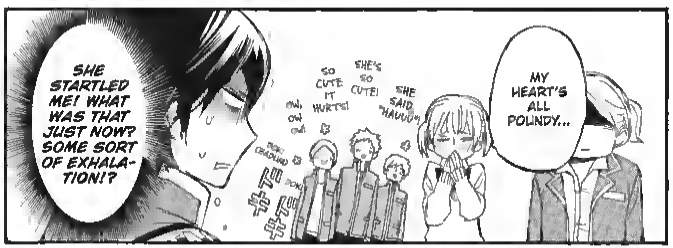
THE MAN, SEI HANDA...
...IS PREPARED TO MEET HIS FATE!!

SO YOU'VE COME, HANDA.. KUN..
HUH!?
THERE'S NO WAY YOU WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS ABOUT!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS ABOUT...
...BUT PLEASE MAKE IT QUICK.
I'M NOT THAT GOOD AT READING SUBTLETY.
YOU'RE SO COOL, HANDA-KUN!
HE'S SO USED TO BEING ASKED OUT.
DARING THEM TO SAY IT...


I'M VERY, VERY GLAD THIS DIDN'T TAKE THE DELINQUENT GANG ROUTE...
AT LEAST IT LOOKS LIKE I'M ONLY UP AGAINST THESE TWO.

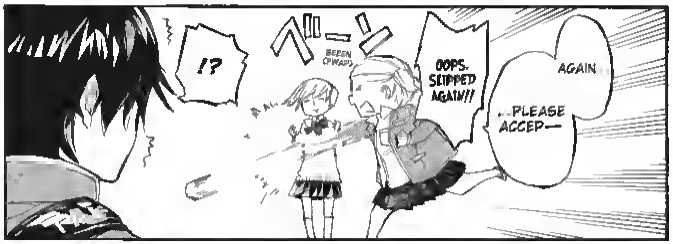
THE KEY TO VICTORY LIES IN HOW I RETURN THE ENEMY'S FIRST MOVE.
A FIGHT AGAINST A GIRL IS MORE LIKELY TO BE VERBAL, NOT PHYSICAL.

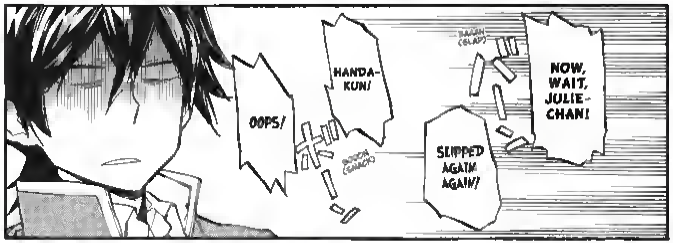

ぴくっ
(SHUU CHIKUCHI)
HAUU!

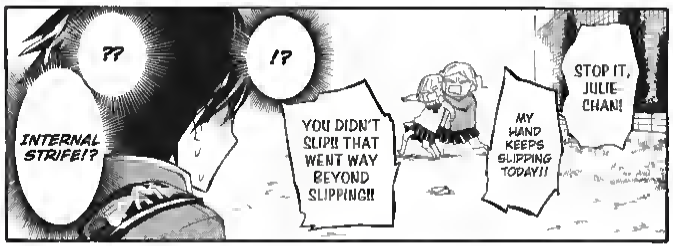

SHE STARTLED ME! WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW? SOME SORT OF EXHALATION!?
(NO, GROUND)
(NO, OW OW)
SO CUTE IT HURTS!
SHE'S SO CUTE!
SHE SAID "HAUUU"!
MY HEART'S ALL POUNDY...

SO I BROUGHT A LETTER.
I'M TOO NERVOUS TO SAY IT...
ドキ
ドキ
ばさ
SAGUN C'MADOO
PLEASE ACCEPT TH—
!?
SORRY MY HAND SLIPPED

OH NO, YOU STARTLED ME
JULIE-CHAN, YOU'RE SO MUSCULAR...
...A LIGHT HIT FROM YOU COULD BREAK A BONE!
AH-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!

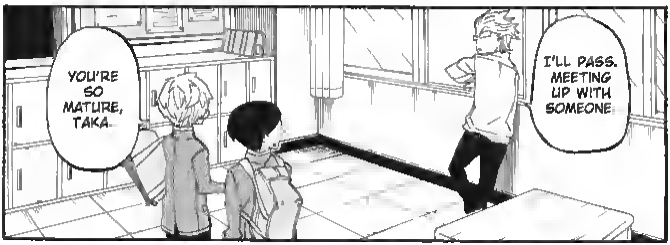

!?
BEGIN CWAGH
OOPS. SLIPPED AGAIN!!
AGAIN
...PLEASE ACCEP—


OOPS!
HANDA-KUN!
DOOOH CAMCH
SLIPPED AGAIN AGAIN!
NOW, WAIT, JULIE-CHAN!
BAGAN (SLAP)


??
!?
INTERNAL STRIFE!?
YOU DIDN'T SLIP! THAT WENT WAY BEYOND SLIPPING!!
MY HAND KEEPS SLIPPING TODAY!!
STOP IT, JULIE-CHAN!

EH?
CAN I REALLY RUN?
ISN'T THAT A HEAD LOCK?
UH, HEY!
HANDA!! ...KUN!
RUN FOR IT!
WHAT IS THIS, JULIE-CHAN!?
SHE'S NOT WORTHY OF YOU!
...SHE HURTS PEOPLE THOUGHT-LESSLY!!
WHILE THIS GIRL MAY BE CUTE...
OH CRAP.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE'S TALKING ABOUT.
STOP IT, JULIE-CHAN!
I SAID— GET GOING!
NOW I KNOW EVEN LESS.
...I'm not worthy of you either
You see—

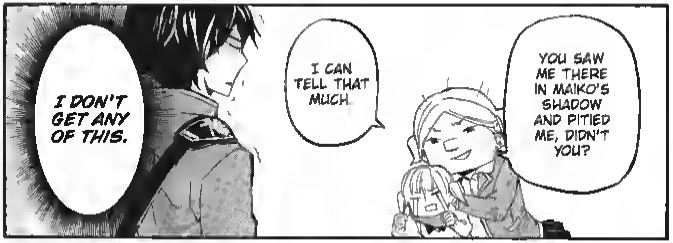
LET'S GO WATCH.
WE HEARD TWO GIRLS ARE FIGHTING OVER HANDA BEHIND THE GYM.
THERE YOU ARE, TAKA!

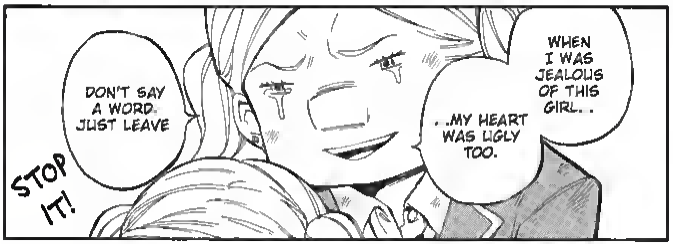

YOU'RE SO MATURE, TAKA...
I'LL PASS. MEETING UP WITH SOMEONE...

.....
WE'LL TELL YOU HOW IT WENT TOMORROW!

WHAT THE HECK IS HANDA DOING?

LET GO OF ME, JULIE-CHAAAN!
GROW UP, AND GIVE UP!
HE'S ENTIRELY OUT OF OUR LEAGUES!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE ROOTING FOR ME JULIE-CHAN!
WOOO! FIGHT, FIGHT!
WAKE UP!
WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO IS LISTEN TO YOUR HEART!
LEFT BEHIND
THAT'S WHAT I LEARNED FROM READING YOUR LETTER, HANDA.
SO THIS GIRL REALLY DID READ IT!
IT'S YOUR HEART THAT MATTERS NOT YOUR APPEARANCE!
EVEN AN UGLY GIRL HAS SOMEONE WHO'LL LOVE HER!
I DON'T REMEMBER WRITING THAT.
WHAT ARE THESE PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT?


I DON'T GET ANY OF THIS.
I CAN TELL THAT MUCH.
YOU SAW ME THERE IN MAIKO'S SHADOW AND PITIED ME, DIDN'T YOU?


STOP IT!
DON'T SAY A WORD. JUST LEAVE
. .MY HEART WAS UGLY TOO.
WHEN I WAS JEALOUS OF THIS GIRL. .

I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO FORGET HAVING THIS IMPACTFUL PERSON IN MY CLASS, NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY
FORGET ABOUT US BOTH

WHOA! HANDA KUN'S JUST UP AND LEAVING!
I'LL BE GOING NOW.
OKAY.
IT LOOKS LIKE I CAN ESCAPE.
STILL, I'M GLAD.

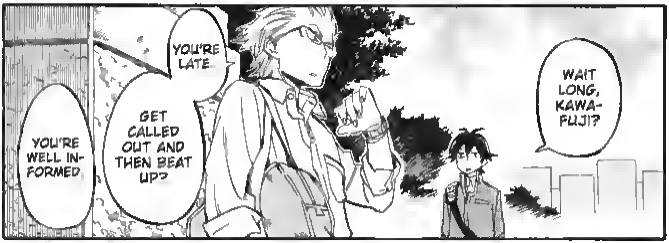
HANDA-KUUUN!
NO!
GIVE UP!
GUIT STRUGGLING!
HANDA-KUUUN!
HANDA-KUUUN!
YOU'RE SO MEAN!
WAAAAHH!
HANDA-KUUUN!
GAAAHH!
MOVE IT!
YOU KNOW...

YOU SHOULD TREASURE THEM.
...FRIENDS AREN'T ALL THAT EASY TO MAKE

HANDA-KUUUN!
HANDA... KUN.
HANDA-KUN!
NA CALIGO
JUST HOW GALLANT CAN YOU BE?
MAIKO!
HANDA-KUUUN!

MAIKO!
WHEEZE—
WHEEZE—
HERE!!
READ THIS!
I'M NOT LETTING YOU LEAVE UNTIL YOU READ IT!
WHEEZE—
WHEEZE—
To Handa-kun
I PUT ALL MY EFFORT INTO WRITING IT
.....
HENCEFORTH, THOSE WHO ASKED OUT SEI HANDA WERE KNOWN AS "THE BRAVE ONES."
WHOAAA!
YOUR WRITING'S A MESS..
BOMB (PUMP)

S GN: CAT-KUN THE DOG



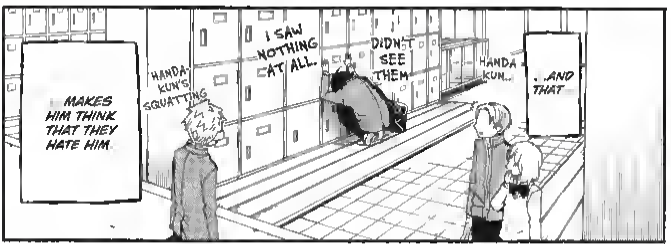
QUIT CRYING.
AAAAAAH!
BUT NOW HANDA-KUN HATES ME!
HE JUST SAID YOUR WRITING WAS POOR.
WRITING IS EVERY-THING TO HANDA-KUN!
EH?
WE'LL BOTH GET PRETTY HANDWRITING, AND THEN WRITE HANDA-KUN LOVE LETTERS AGAIN.
.....
WANNA GO LEARN PENMANSHIP TOGETHER?
SHEEK.
FIX YOUR PERSONALITY!! IT SERIOUSLY MAKES ME WANT TO SLUG YOU!
YOU'VE GOT BUBBLY HANDWRITING THAT DOESN'T FIT YOUR APPEARANCE EITHER.

I DON'T WANT TO LOSE TO YOU, JULIE-CHAN.
AND I WON'T LOSE TO YOU.
HEE HEE...
I'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU.
SURE .. MAIKO, YOU'RE MY GOOD FRIEND.
AND ALSO
...MY RIVAL IN LOVE.
ZERO CHILLED
WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING I'M PROBABLY JUST GETTING BAD-MOUTHED

SEI HANDA.
HIGH SCHOOL SECOND-YEAR.
HIS FATHER IS SEIMEI HANDA, A MASTER CALLIGRAPHER.
HE HIMSELF IS A WELL-KNOWN PRODIGY IN THE CALLIGRAPHY WORLD.

WHEREVER HE WALKS, A PATH NATURALLY OPENS UP.
THE STUDENTS TALK ABOUT HIM IN HUSHED TONES

HIS COOL BEARING, WHICH KEEPS OTHERS AT A DISTANCE...
...MAKES HIM COME OFF AS ALOOF.
PEOPLE GAZE AT HIM ENVIOUSLY FROM AFAR.


...AND THAT
HANDA-KUN...
I DIDN'T SEE THEM
I SAW NOTHING AT ALL.
HANDA-KUN'S SQUATTING
...MAKES HIM THINK THAT THEY HATE HIM.

TAI-SYO
TAI-SYO

Handa-
kun

OCCUPATION: CALLIGRAPHER.
SEI HANDA.
...HAS LEFT HIM A SAD, SOLITARY GENIUS.
HANDA-KUN...
IT'S HANDA-KUN..
HANDA-KUN...
HIS VIBE THAT KEEPS OTHERS AT A DISTANCE...
KUUUN..
!?
OH, HEY!
STILL, HE DOES HAVE ONE FRIEND
BUT...
HUH!?
DA DAARU
DA DAARU

HEY!
WHAT?
WHAT'S WRONG?
...AT SCHOOL, HE INSISTS ON PRETENDING THAT THEY'RE STRANGERS!

KWA (CRACK)
KAAAN (CRANG)
KOOON (CRONG)
KOOON
I ENDED UP AVOIDING KAWAFUJI AGAIN.
MAN...
BOOK: MATH A
I'D HATE FOR PEOPLE TO START SHUNNING YOU TOO.
PLEASE UNDER-STAND. .
HANDA BELIEVES THAT HIS FRIEND WOULD ALSO BE HATED IF SEEN ASSOCIATING WITH HIM.
SIGH...
THIS WAY, I'M THE ONLY ONE BEING SHUNNED.

!!
PERO (PERO)
TOM (TOMO)
IS SHE..!?
SHE HASN'T NOTICED!!!
THE ERASER OF THE GIRL NEXT TO ME ROLLED UNDER MY CHAIR!!
YOU DROPPED THIS
NO, WAIT!! IF I PICK IT UP AND PASS IT TO HER..
PICK IT UP!?
WHAT DO I DO!?
...I'LL NEVER RECOVER!!
...AND SHE RESPONDS LIKE THAT..
GROSS!
WOW IT'S ALL DIRTY!
YOU TOUCHED MY ERASER!?

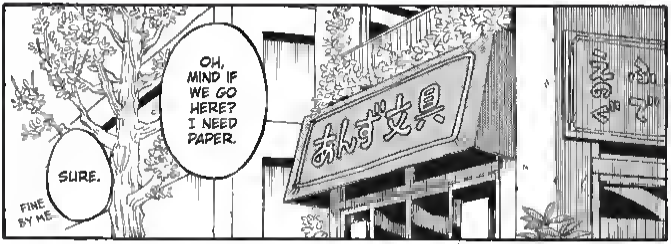
WHERE'S MY ERASER?
HUH?
(RUSTLE)
I KNOW!!
TOSH
EH?
LIKE THAT
OH NO!
COULD IT BE...
...HE SAW THAT MY ERASER WAS ALMOST OUT..
...AND REPLACED IT WITH A NEW ONE?
THANK GOODNESS I HAD A BRAND-NEW ERASER.
MY HUNCH THAT A NEW ONE WOULD PLACATE HER WAS CORRECT!!

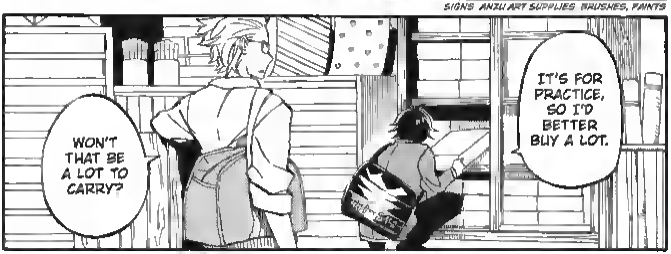
WHAT'LL I DO? I CAN'T USE THIS
I WROTE THAT WRONG.
OH.
KESHI (ERASE)
KESHI (ERASE)
!?
CLATTER (SPLINTER)
I'LL TIE IT WITH A RIBBON!
HOW VICIOUS!!
SHE STUCK PENCIL LEAD IN THE ERASER!!
THAT WOMAN!

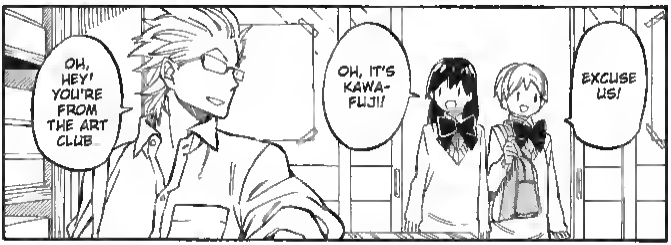
NOT MANY CAN PULL OFF LOOKING THAT COOL STANDING BY THE WINDOW.
MOVED BY THE WINDOW TO AVOID BEING TREATED AS AN INTRUDER
NEGATIVE AURA
HANDA-KUN'S AURA IS GOING FULL BLAST AGAIN TODAY.
I'M NOT LUCKY AT ALL!
I CAN'T LOOK HIS WAY!
I GET NERVOUS!
YOU'RE SO LUCKY YOU SIT NEXT TO HIM, MIYOKO!
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF BEING NEXT TO HIM!
ACK! NO WAY, NO WAY!
YOU COULD "TRIP AND FALL"... ...AND GIVE HIM A HUG!
DON'T CRY, DON'T CRY.
YOU TRY SITTING NEXT TO HIM INSTEAD!!
OH GOD, NO!

THOSE ON CLEANING DUTY, CLEAN UP THE ROOM BEFORE LEAVING
OKAY!
2-7
AFTER SCHOOL
THAT'S RIGHT, DON'T YOU HAVE CALLIGRAPHY WORK TO DO TODAY?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO, HANDA-KUN
OH!
HERE! YOU DO IT!
WHAT?
NO, YOU'RE FINE!
WE CAN ALWAYS FIND A SUBSTITUTE CLEANER, BUT THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR YOU!
BUT I'M ON CLEAN-ING DUTY
INVOL-UNTARY DIS-CHARGE
BAM (SHOT)
LATER!
BYE-BYE!

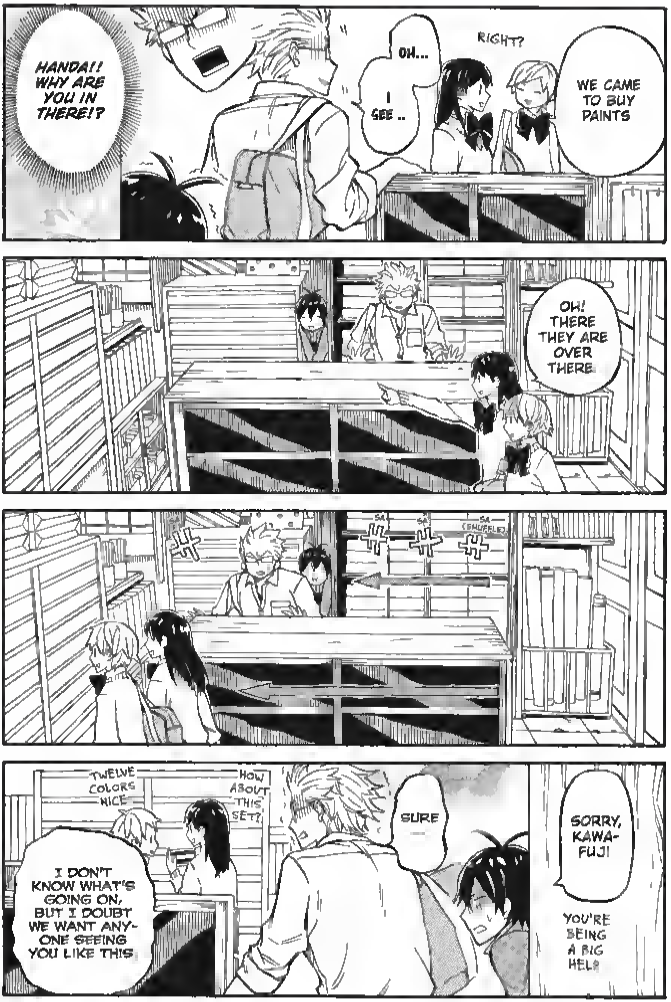
THEY'RE PRETTY SLY...
MAJOR BROWNIE POINTS!
WHO KNOWS HOW HE'LL THANK US FOR IT SOMEDAY?
THAT WAS SO THOUGHT-FUL OF US!
NOW THEY'RE HAVING FUN...
OH, HEY
YOU'RE EARLY
?
OH BOY! I'M SO LUCKY I GET TO SKIP CLEANING DUTY!
THANK GOOD-NESS!
WHY CAN'T THEY JUST TELL ME I'M IN THE WAY!?


OH, MIND IF WE GO HERE? I NEED PAPER.
SURE.
FINE BY ME
あんず文具
SIGNS ANZU ART SUPPLIES BRUSHES, PAINTS

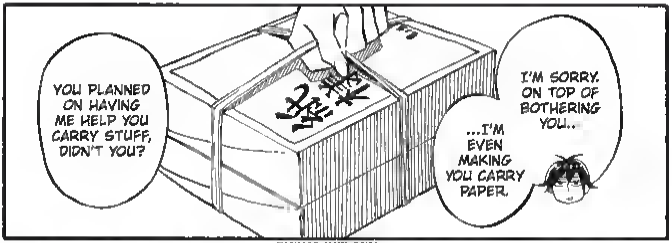

IT'S FOR PRACTICE, SO I'D BETTER BUY A LOT.
WON'T THAT BE A LOT TO CARRY?


OH, HEY! YOU'RE FROM THE ART CLUB.
OH, IT'S KAWA-FUJI!
EXCUSE US!

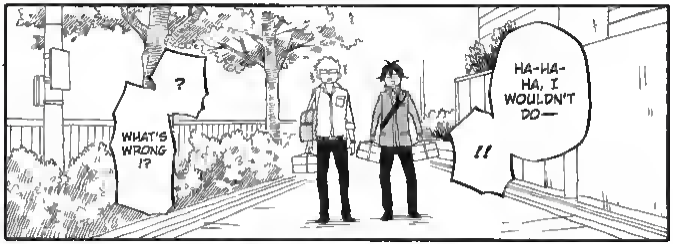
!?
I'M WITH...
I'M NOT BY MY-SELF!
SHOP-PING BY YOUR-SELF?
THAT'S PRETTY SAD

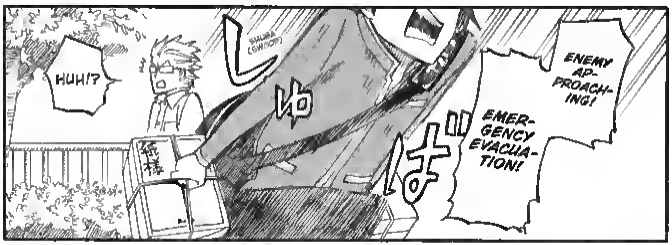

HANDA!! WHY ARE YOU IN THERE!?
I SEE ..
OH...
RIGHT?
WE CAME TO BUY PAINTS
OH! THERE THEY ARE OVER THERE
SA
SA
SA

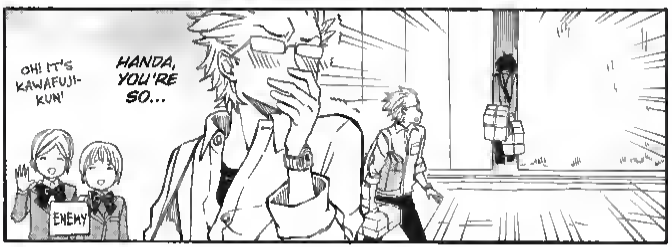
SURE!
BYE BYE!
SEE YOU LATER, KAWA-FUJI!
COME ON...
WHY DID YOU HIDE ALL OF A SUDDEN?
ARE THEY GONE?
HANDA...
IT'S JUST...
WOULDN'T IT BE BAD IF PEOPLE THOUGHT YOU WERE FRIENDS WITH ME?
EXCUSE ME! WE NEED SOME LUBRICANT OVER HERE!
I'M STUCK.
THAT'S NOT FOR YOU TO—



HACKADE KAMI SAMA







LATER!
BYE-BYE!
ARE THEY GONE?
DO YOU ALWAYS HIDE THIS MUCH?
I DON'T HIDE WHEN I'M ALONE
I JUST DON'T WANT TO CAUSE YOU ANY TROUBLE
OH, HANDA...
OH, HERE COME SOME MORE.
DAMN. THERE'RE A LOT OF PEDESTRIANS HERE!
GA (WAAH)

LET'S LAY LOW HERE FOR A BIT.
SURE.
SHANG-CAFÉ MOUNTAIN
WHAT'LL YOU DRINK?
BLACK BEAN TEA
TEPID
OKAY, BLACK BEAN TEA AND..
...BLACK COFFEE.
YOU'RE SUCH A MIDDLE-AGED MAN
HEY, IF I'M MIDDLE-AGED
...THEN YOU'RE ELDERLY!
MENU

HEY THERE
OH, IT'S KAWA-FUJI!
UH— NO, I HAVEN'T
SHH!
HAVE YOU SEEN SEI HANDA?
SO THAT'S WHY THERE'RE SO MANY GIRLS FROM OUR SCHOOL AROUND TODAY
I HEARD THAT HE WAS SELLING HIS OWN POEMS NEAR HERE YESTERDAY
NOW THEY'RE STARTING WEIRD RUMORS ABOUT ME!!
KARAN CRATTLED
TOKOTON CLATTERED
LATER!
GOOD POINT! I'LL JUST HEAD HOME, THEN
HA HA!
AS IF HANDA WOULD DO STUFF LIKE THAT

SHEESH.
SORRY FOR BEING JUMPY.
IF THEY FOUND OUT THAT I'M FRIENDS WITH YOU..
...IT WOULDN'T BOTHER ME
THERE'S NO NEED TO HIDE IT.
KAWA-FUJI...
TO BE CONTINUED
HM?
I'LL PROTECT YOU NO MATTER WHAT
I'LL KEEP PRETENDING THAT WE'RE STRANGERS UNTIL GRADUATION.

I WANT YOUR TEA!
KAWAFUJI'S A GOOD GUY.
HE'S ALSO POPULAR AT SCHOOL...
...AND HE EVEN TREATS A MISFIT LIKE ME THE SAME AS ANYONE ELSE.
HERE. DRINK UP.
TO ME, HE'S MY ONE AND ONLY GOOD FRIEND...
SHUN (WILT)
しゅん
...BUT TO KAWAFUJI... ...I'M JUST ONE OF HIS MANY FRIENDS...
SIGH
THAT FACT... ...MAKES ME A LITTLE LONELY.
.....

THE TRUTH IS...
...THE REASON HANDA HAS THIS COMPLEX...
...IS MY FAULT.
THIS AREA'S PRETTY DANGER OUS
TODAY...
I MET HANDA AT OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL ENTRANCE CEREMONY.
ARE YOU HANDA-SENSEI'S SON?
YOU KNOW MY DAD?
WE BONDED OVER CALLIG-RAPHY.
SO THAT CALLIG-RAPHER USES...
THIS CHARACTER'S ACTUALLY WRITTEN...
FOR CALLIG-RAPHERS, THAT'S...
WITH THE BRUSH, YOU DO...
WHILE HE STILL HAD HIS MOODY SIDE...
...UNLIKE NOW, HE USED TO BE MORE EARNEST.

HERE!
PASS THIS ON TO HANDA-KUN!
UNTIL ONE DAY...
AS THE POPULAR GUY IN MY CLASS, I FELT SHOCKED AT BEING USED AS A GO-BETWEEN.
SENPAI!
...
GASAH (CRUMPLED)
KAWAFUJI-KUN, YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH HANDA-KUN, RIGHT?
A BEAUTIFUL AND POPULAR SENPAI WHO I HAD A CRUSH ON...
WHAT IS IT, KAWA-FUJI?
HEY, HANDA!
SO I WENT AND TOLD HIM A LIE...
BOOK: CHEERFUL CALLIGRAPHY
...AND HANDA CLOSED OFF HIS HEART.
SENPAI'S BEEN TELLING PEOPLE THAT YOU'RE A STUCK-UP BRUSH-HEAD WHO ONLY CARES ABOUT CALLIGRAPHY!!

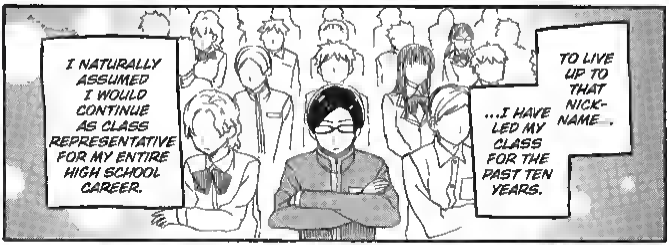
HE WAS SHOCKED THAT THE SCHOOL'S FAMOUS BEAUTY WOULD TREAT HIM AS AN ENEMY.
HANDA WAS MUCH TOO PURE AND INNOCENT
GIRLS ARE SCARY
LOOK! IT'S A LOVE LETTER, HANDA!!
JUST A JOKE!
IT WAS A JOKE, HANDA!!
EVEN WHEN I TRIED TO TAKE IT BACK LATER ON, HE REFUSED TO LISTEN.
...SO THAT HANDA CAN FINALLY SPEND HIS DAYS IN PEACE
ONE, TWO, THREE...
ACK! WHAT'RE THEY DOING!?
SOMEDAY I WANT TO CLEAR UP THE MISUNDER-STANDING...
...BUT...
NOW THERE'RE FIVE OF THEM!!
I WANT TO TELL HIM THE TRUTH, THAT HE'S ACTUALLY POPULAR..

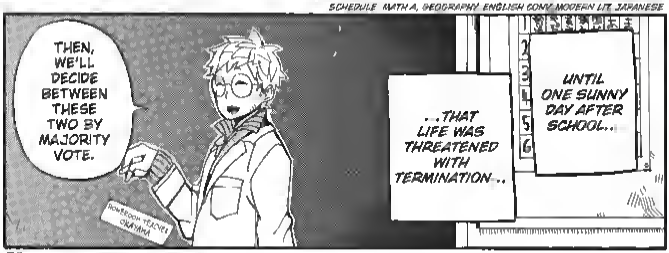
THIS IS WAY TOO FUNNY FOR ME TO LET IT END JUST YET.
WHERE'S HANDA KUN?
IT'S NOT SAFE HERE! WE'D BETTER LEAVE NOW!
KAWA-FUJI!!

Handa-
kun

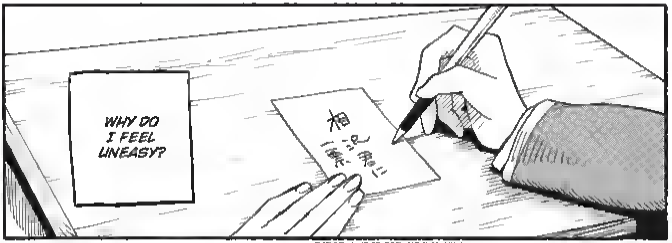
I AM A BRILLIANT MAN WITH A KEEN MIND AND STRONG LEADERSHIP SKILLS.
MY NAME IS JUNICHI AIZAWA.

KUL CAD JUNI?
CLASS REP.
MY NICK-NAME —


I NATURALLY ASSUMED I WOULD CONTINUE AS CLASS REPRESENTATIVE FOR MY ENTIRE HIGH SCHOOL CAREER.
...I HAVE LED MY CLASS FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.
TO LIVE UP TO THAT NICK-NAME...


SCHEDULE MATH A, GEOGRAPHY, ENGLISH COMM, MODERN LIT, JAPANESE
THEN, WE'LL DECIDE BETWEEN THESE TWO BY MAJORITY VOTE.
HOMEROOM TEACHER SHIMADA
...THAT LIFE WAS THREATENED WITH TERMINATION...
UNTIL ONE SUNNY DAY AFTER SCHOOL...

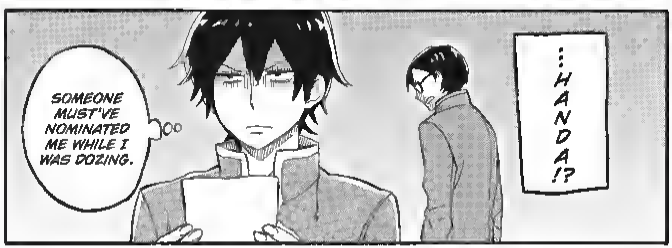
AIZAWA
相沢
HANDA
半田
...BY THE HAND OF THE SCHOOL SUPERSTAR, SEI HANDA!
WE'LL HOLD A SECRET BALLOT SO THERE ARE NO HARD FEELINGS.
WRITE YOUR CHOICE ON YOUR SLIP OF PAPER, AND THEN PLACE IT IN THE BALLOT BOX.



PAPER: I VOTE FOR AIZAWA-KUN

投票箱
...THIS IS LIKE THE UNEASE AN INCUMBENT FEELS WHEN A CELEBRITY SUDDENLY ANNOUNCES THEIR CANDIDACY IN HIS ELECTORAL DISTRICT
WHILE ONE AS BRILLIANT AS MYSELF COULD NEVER LOSE...

BOX: BALLOT BOX / SCHEDULE: MATH A, ENGLISH COM I, CLASSIC LIT, BIOLOGY, PHYS E&M, MODERN LIT



JUST LIKE THAT!
HE DOES CALLIGRAPHY AND ISN'T IN ANY CLUBS, SO HE'S GOT OODLES OF TIME
BEING CLASS REP'S A PAIN. SO WHY DON'T WE MAKE HANDA DO IT?

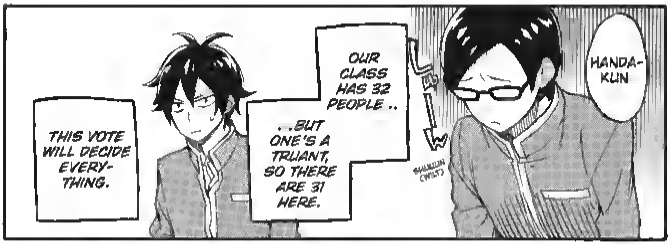
BUT AT THIS POINT, RESIGNING WILL MAKE ME LOOK LIKE A COWARD.
THIS TIME
WAS DOZING.
ANOTHER
GIVE OFF AN AURA OF BEING FAR TOO BUSY
ONE WAY
GIVE OFF AN AURA THAT I WOULDN'T DO IT.
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, I'VE ALWAYS MANAGED TO AVOID GETTING NOMINATED FOR CLASS REPRESENTATIVE.

STILL, THERE'S ALSO THAT AIZAWA. .
YES!
HAVE YOU ALL CAST YOUR BALLOTS?

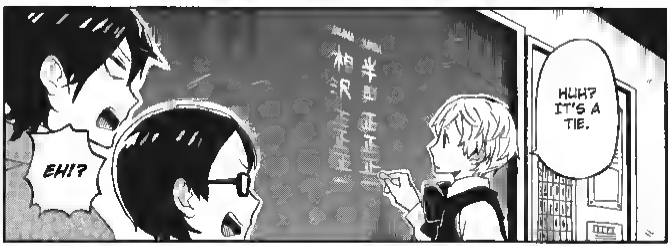
A LOOK OF PITY!!
IS HE ALREADY THAT CONFIDENT ABOUT WINNING!?
POOR GUY.
YOU'RE IN THE SAME BOAT

THEN, I'LL NOW ANNOUNCE THE VOTES.
投票箱
AIZAWA-KUN
YEEEEESSSS!
HANDA-KUN
SIGH
YEEAAHHH!

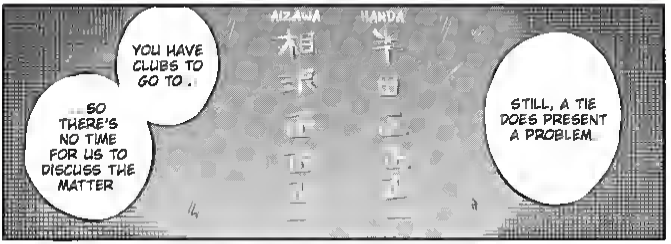
AIZAWA-KUN.
WHAT IS THIS EXHILARATION!?
I'VE NEVER FELT THIS TENSION BEFORE.
AIZAWA
相沢正
HANDA
半田正
EVERY SINGLE VOTE PIERCES MY HEART.
THERE'S AN INDESCRIBABLE SENSE OF GRATITUDE...
...ALONG WITH A WEIGHTY PRESSURE.
EVEN A FEELING OF UNITY.
...WITH THE SUPERSTAR NEXT TO ME...
...WHO'S CLENCHING HIS PALMS IN THE VERY SAME WAY...
...THAT I AM.
THIS IS HOW IT FEELS TO BE CHOSEN!


HANDA-KUN
OUR CLASS HAS 32 PEOPLE ..
...BUT ONE'S A TRUANT, SO THERE ARE 31 HERE.
THIS VOTE WILL DECIDE EVERY-THING.

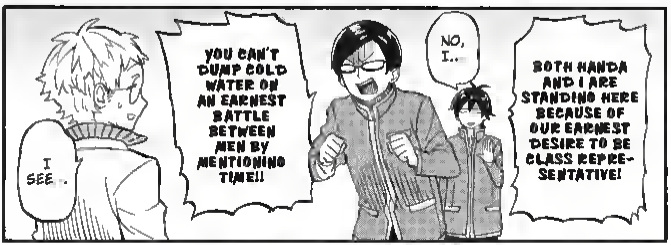
AND THE LAST ONE IS FOR .. HANDA-KUN!
GUHH!
PLEASE, JUST LET THE VOTE NATURALLY GO TO THAT AIZAWA!


HUH? IT'S A TIE.
EH!?

THAT'S BECAUSE I VOTED IN PLACE OF THE ABSENTEE CLASSMATE.
OH, SO THAT'S WHY
I'M WORRIED ABOUT WHICH OF US HE PICKED!!


AIZAWA
相沢
HANDA
半田
STILL, A TIE DOES PRESENT A PROBLEM.
YOU HAVE CLUBS TO GO TO.
...SO THERE'S NO TIME FOR US TO DISCUSS THE MATTER

HOW CAN YOU SAY THERE'S NO TIME!?
UM...
OOH!
IS THIS MY CHANCE TO RESIGN?

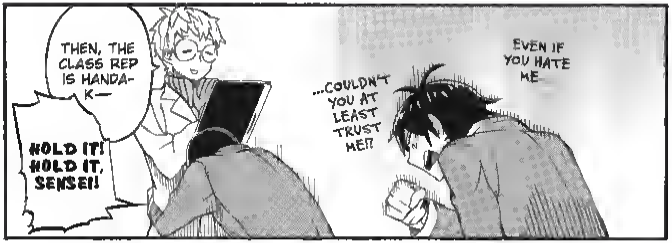

I SEE...
YOU CAN'T DUMP COLD WATER ON AN EARNEST BATTLE BETWEEN MEN BY MENTIONING TIME!!
NO, I...
BOTH HANDA AND I ARE STANDING HERE BECAUSE OF OUR EARNEST DESIRE TO BE CLASS REPRESENTATIVE!

I CAN'T GET HIM TO LISTEN
I SAID AN EARNEST FIGHT!!
OKAY, SHALL WE USE ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS?

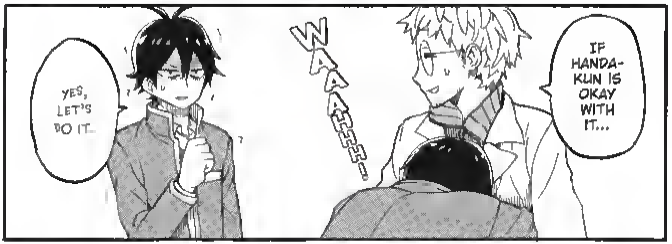
I THINK ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS IS A GOOD IDEA
AGREED.
ANOTHER VOTE WOULD JUST TURN OUT THE SAME
YOU GUYS TOO!?
IT DOES COMBINE BOTH SKILL AND LUCK.
I THINK IT'S GOOD TOO.
GRRR-
SAY SOMETHING!
WELL ..
IF THAT'S WHAT THE CITIZENS DEMAND, THEN, FINE.
ONE ROUND WILL SETTLE THIS!
WHOA A A A!
YEAH! GOOD LUCK TO YOU BOTH!

AHEM...
THE WINNER GETS TO BE CLASS REP
WAIT, DOES THIS GUY. .
...WANT TO BE THE CLASS REP?
NOW, WHAT'LL IT BE?
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT ANYONE WOULD ACTUALLY WANT THAT TROUBLE-SOME JOB...
ヒーロー
...BUT IF SO, THEN, DOESN'T THAT MEAN OUR INTERESTS COINCIDE?
WHOAAAA!
WHAT!?
I WILL ONLY THROW ROCK
NOW, BEAT ME, AND BECOME CLASS REP!

COUNTER-COUNTER-PLOTTING!?
IS HE COUNTER-PLOTTING!?
A-ADVANCE NOTICE!?
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
ONE... TWO...
DAMN IT!
A COUNTER-COUNTER?
WHAT'S HE SMIRKING FOR!?
THREE!
BUT HE DIDN'T BELIEVE ME!
I SAID I'D THROW ROCK!
YOU ROTTEN SCHEMER!
ARGHHH!


THEN, THE CLASS REP IS HANDA-K—
HOLD IT! HOLD IT, SENSEI!
...COULDN'T YOU AT LEAST TRUST ME!?
EVEN IF YOU HATE ME

BUT YOU SAID THAT ONE ROUND WOULD SETTLE THIS
WHY WOULD IT!? THIS IS FOR CLASS REP! IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE PICKING WHO'LL BE IN CHARGE OF TAKING OUT THE TRASH!
BEST OUT OF THREE!!
LET'S DO BEST OUT OF THREE!!

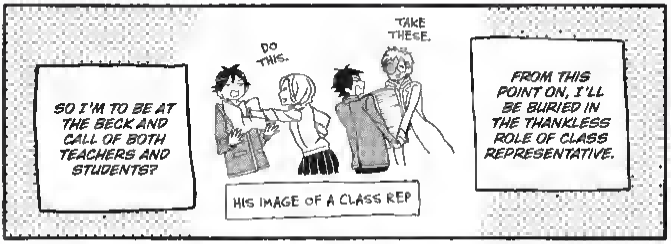

YES, LET'S DO IT.
WA-AHHH—
IF HANDA-KUN IS OKAY WITH IT...

IT'S PRETTY CLEAR THAT YOUR INTERESTS COINCIDE..
I WANT TO WINNNNN!
UNTIL I'VE LOST

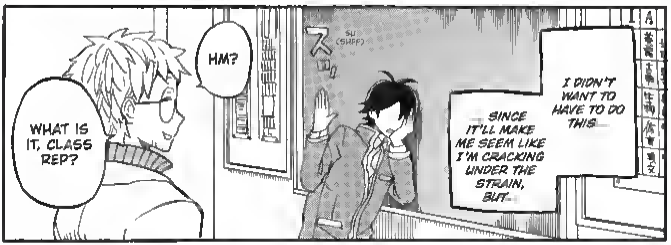
ONE.. TWO..
2-7
READY TO THROW?
THREE!
NOW YOU'RE ONE-FOR-ONE.
THIS TIME HE TRUSTED ME
YEESSS!
HOW FAR HAS HE SCHEMED!?
ROCK AGAIN!?
GU CHAMP?

NO... IF I DO THAT, THEN IT'LL BE HARDER TO PREDICT HIS NEXT MOVE
FOR NOW, DO I THROW ROCK TOO...
.. AND BUY TIME WITH A TIE?
I NEED TO FIND SOME WAY TO CUT THROUGH THIS DILEMMA. HOW CAN I CUT THROUGH IT..?
ONE... TWO...
APPARENTLY, PEOPLE TEND TO THROW PAPER FIRST, SO I CAN WIN IF I THROW SCISSORS. BUT SINCE HANDA SAYS HE'LL THROW ROCK, I CAN JUST THROW PAPER. BUT, SINCE I SUSPECT HANDA WILL THROW SCISSORS AS A COUNTER-ATTACK, THAT MEANS I SHOULD THROW ROCK. BUT, IF I THROW ROCK AND IT'S A TIE, THEN WE'RE RIGHT BACK WHERE WE STARTED
DAHHHH!
ARGHHHH!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO CUT IT WITH SCISSORS!
AIZAWA-KUN, THAT WAS PERFECTLY BRILLIANT IDIOCY.

W—
WAIT A MINUTE!!
OKAY, OUR CLASS REPRESENTATIVE IS HANDA-KUN.
SO THIS IS HOW IT TURNS OUT?
DAMN IT!
EVERYBODY WANTS TO MAKE IT HOME TODAY
RYUN (GUILT)
WE ARE NOT DOING BEST OUT OF FIVE.
BY LOSING ON PURPOSE
...AND THEN PLAYING THE FOOL, HE'S MADE IT SO THAT I DON'T EVEN HAVE THE LUXURY OF COMPLAINING
GAAHHH!
THAT GLASSES GUY...
...ONLY PRETENDED HE WANTED TO BE CLASS REP, JUST SO HE COULD STICK ME WITH IT AT THE VERY END
HANDA-KUN'S A MAN OF HIS WORD
HE REALLY DID THROW ROCK EACH TIME
THIS WAS ALL BECAUSE I LACKED THE ABILITY TO TRUST OTHERS
HANDA WALL
HE HAD ME TRAPPED... FROM THE VERY BEGINNING

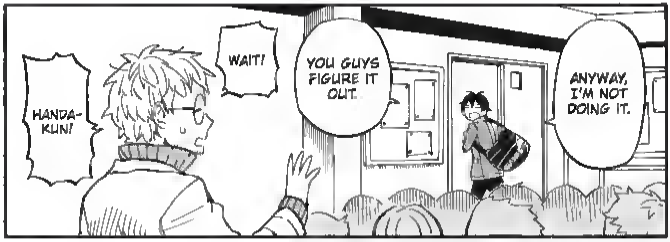

SO I'M TO BE AT THE BECK AND CALL OF BOTH TEACHERS AND STUDENTS?
DO THIS.
TAKE THESE.
HIS IMAGE OF A CLASS REP
FROM THIS POINT ON, I'LL BE BURIED IN THE THANKLESS ROLE OF CLASS REPRESENTATIVE.

THAT'S MORE THAN I CAN BEAR.
MY SCHOOL LIFE IS ALREADY GRAY AT BEST...

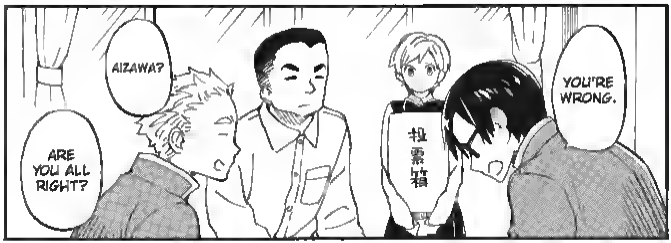

WHAT IS IT, CLASS REP?
HM?
SU (SHIFT)
SINCE IT'LL MAKE ME SEEM LIKE I'M CRACKING UNDER THE STRAIN, BUT...
I DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE TO DO THIS...

EH!?
I RESIGN.

OH, DEAR ME!
COULD IT BE?
EH!?
USING GIRLIE SPEECH IN HIS PANIC
I REALIZED I'M ALREADY TOO BUSY WITH WORK...
THAT'S A PROBLEM.
WE'D FINALLY DECIDED WHO IT'D BE
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU SAYING?
STOP IT!
IF YOU'RE YIELDING OUT OF PITY, THEN, I DECLINE.
THEN, WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST RESIGN IN THE FIRST PLACE!?
I WAS THINKING FROM THE START THAT YOU SHOULD DO IT.
IT'S NOT OUT OF PITY.
EH...?
IN THE SAME BOAT AS ME.
IT'S BECAUSE I FELT BAD FOR YOU

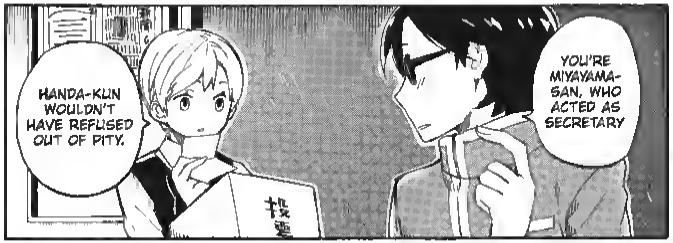

HANDA-KUN!
WAIT!
YOU GUYS FIGURE IT OUT.
ANYWAY, I'M NOT DOING IT.

THAT'S KINDA IRRESPONSIBLE.
HANDA-KUN JUST UP AND LEFT?
COME ON!
FUSHA (GLARE)
ピシャ
HANDA-KUN!

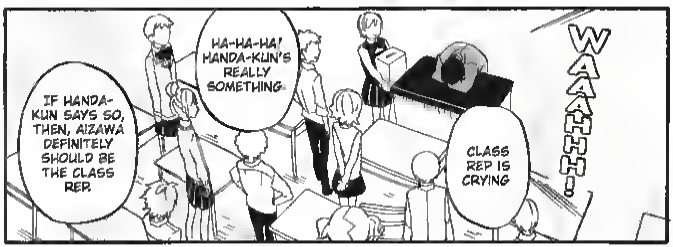

AIZAWA?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YOU'RE WRONG.

ZAWA
AIZAWA'S MOOD TOOK A MAJOR SHIFT.
ZAWA (MUMBLING)
HANDA-KUN HAS TAUGHT ME SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT

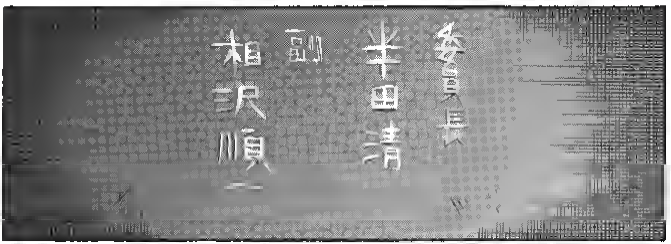
I WASN'T THINKING ABOUT ANYONE ELSE...
UP TO NOW, I ONLY CARED ABOUT HAVING THE TITLE OF CLASS REP.
NO...HE MADE ME REALIZE THAT.
LOOKING BACK ON THE HEROIC BATTLE
...I LEARNED HOW PRECIOUS EACH PERSON IS AND THE NEED TO TRUST OTHERS.
BUT IN TODAY'S BATTLE...
IS THAT HOW IT WAS?
HE IS A TRULY GREAT MAN.
FEELING BAD FOR ME AND MY SMUGNESS...
IT WASN'T PITY!
. DOES MAKE ME PITIFUL.
ALTHOUGH, HIS REFUSAL OF THE POSITION OUT OF PITY FOR ME...



HALL: NEWSPAPER 6


IF HANDA-KUN SAYS SO, THEN, AIZAWA DEFINITELY SHOULD BE THE CLASS REP.
HA-HA-HA! HANDA-KUN'S REALLY SOMETHING.
CLASS REP IS CRYING
WAAHH!

NO.
THIS INCIDENT HAS MADE EVERYTHING CLEAR TO ME.
I BET YOU'RE ALL THINKING THE SAME THING.
BUT ARE YOU FINE WITH IT, AIZAWA-KUN?
RIGHT NOW, I FEEL...
...THE BEST I HAVE EVER FELT IN MY LIFE.
THERE'S REALLY ONLY ONE PERSON SUITABLE TO BE OUR CLASS REP



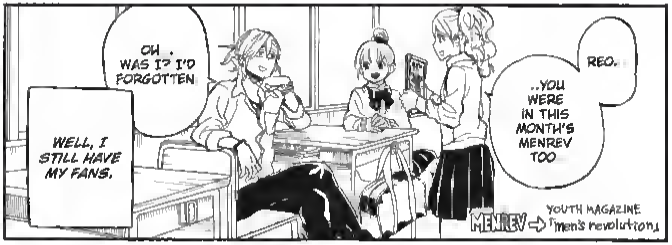
BOARD: CLASS REP SEI HANDA VICE REP JUNICHI AIZAWA

AFTER YOU LEFT, WE ALL DISCUSSED THE MATTER AND AGREED...
—THAT ANYONE BESIDES YOU WOULD BE UNTHINK-ABLE
WHILE I WAS GONE..
HOW VICIOUS!

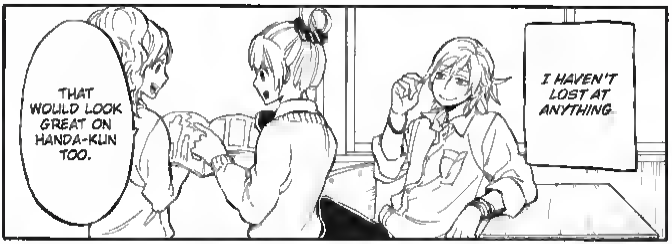
OKAY...
SINCE YOU HAVE CALLIGRAPHY WORK TO DO...
...I'LL HANDLE ALL THE GRUNT WORK
OKAY.
LET'S DO OUR BEST NOT TO LET THE OTHER CLASSES OUTDO US IN STUDIES OR ATHLETICS
WHAT IS IT?
UH, SAY— CAN I ASK ONE THING?
委員長
半田清
EH!?
YOU DON'T KNOW?
WHAT DOES A CLASS REPRESENTATIVE DO?

IF I MUST SAY SO MYSELF...
REO NIKAIDOU (17)
...LOOK GOOD!
SUUU
...I...
NARA CHIKAYUKI
THE MOST POPULAR GUY IN SCHOOL.
MAYBE THAT'S WHY, WHEREVER I GO, I'M THE CENTER OF EVERY GIRL'S ATTENTION.
Look over HERE!
REOoo!
REO!
REO
...SO WHILE STILL A STUDENT, I'M ALSO A SUCCESSFUL MODEL.
I GOT SCOUTED IN TOWN
OR, AT LEAST IT WAS...
IT'S HANDA-KUN!
GYAAAHH!
MY HIGH SCHOOL LIFE IS SMOOTH SAILING.

...UNTIL I ENDED UP IN THE SAME CLASS AS SEI HANDA.
SUTA (STRIDE)
スタスタスタスタスタ
SUTA
SUTA
SUTA
SUTA
IT'S HANDA-KUN!
HANDA-KUN!
HANDA-KUN!
ばっ
SU CHWEOSU


OH, WAS IT? I'D FORGOTTEN
WELL, I STILL HAVE MY FANS.
REO.
..YOU WERE IN THIS MONTH'S MENREV TOO
MENREV ⇨ YOUTH MAGAZINE "men's revolution"

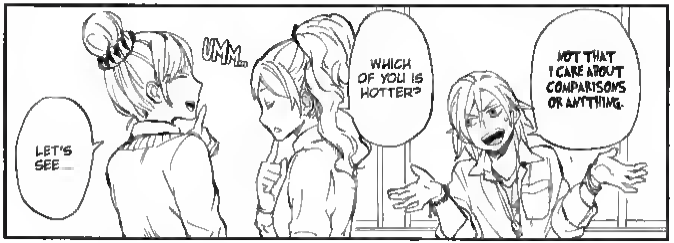
ISN'T THAT THE FASHION STYLIST CAROLINE YAMAUCHI?
SHE'S FAMOUS.
THIS SPRING, CAMPUS IS STYLISH
CAROLINE'S TOP REC
SEE? YOU LOOK SO COOL!
AND MY STELLAR MODELING JOB

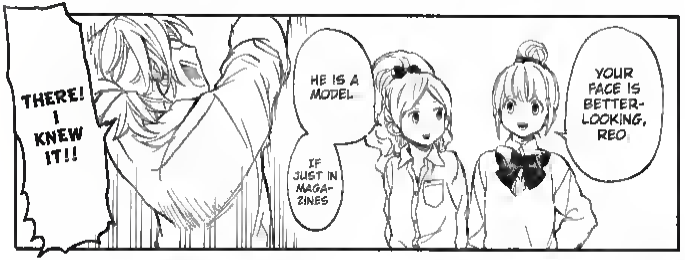

THAT WOULD LOOK GREAT ON HANDA-KUN TOO.
I HAVEN'T LOST AT ANYTHING

YEAH, SINCE HIS SPINE'S STRAIGHTER THAN REO'S
ACTUALLY, HANDA-KUN COULD WEAR IT BETTER.
!?

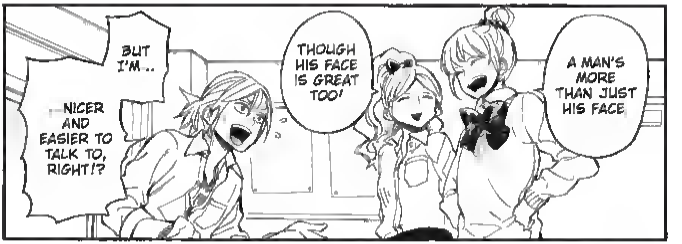
I WANNA SEE HIM IN STREET CLOTHES...
HE'LL HEAR US!
OH DEAR...
THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL "CHEATING"!!
WH-WH-WHY DID YOU BRING UP HANDA!?
AREN'T YOU TWO MY FANS!?
HM?
SO...
I'D BETTER SET THIS STRAIGHT!!
WHO'S HOTTER—ME OR HANDA?
BE HONEST.
EH?
WHY THAT UGLY LAUGHTER?
HA HA HA!
SNERK.

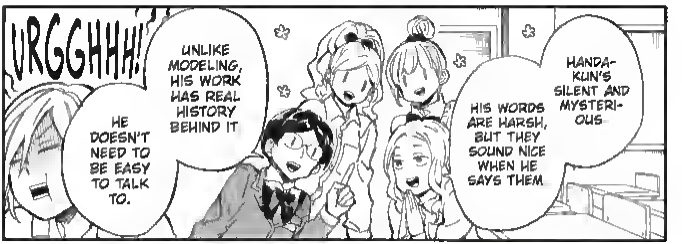
IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S A RIVAL OR ANYTHING!
I'M JUST WONDERING WHAT KIND OF GUY HE IS.
OH, NO, NO!
YOU SEE HIM AS A RIVAL?
GIGGLE.
GIGGLE.
EVEN CONFIDENT GUYS LIKE REO WORRY ABOUT THAT STUFF!


LET'S SEE...
UMM...
WHICH OF YOU IS HOTTER?
NOT THAT I CARE ABOUT COMPARISONS OR ANYTHING.


THERE! I KNEW IT!!
HE IS A MODEL.
IF JUST IN MAGAZINES
YOUR FACE IS BETTER-LOOKING, REO.

THEY'RE BAD-MOUTHING ME.
HANDA WALL
GRR!
BUT HANDA-KUN'S NOT JUST A FACE!
HE'S GOT A CERTAIN SOMETHING.


A MAN'S MORE THAN JUST HIS FACE
THOUGH HIS FACE IS GREAT TOO!
BUT I'M..
NICER AND EASIER TO TALK TO, RIGHT!?


URGGHHH!
HANDA-KUN'S SILENT AND MYSTERI-OUS
HIS WORDS ARE HARSH, BUT THEY SOUND NICE WHEN HE SAYS THEM
UNLIKE MODELING, HIS WORK HAS REAL HISTORY BEHIND IT
HE DOESN'T NEED TO BE EASY TO TALK TO.

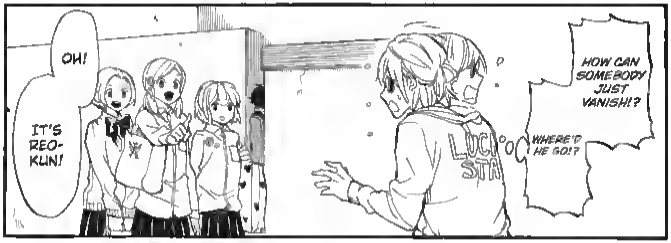
HE'S LIKE A FLOWER ON A LOFTY PEAK! ♡
YEAH!♡
WOULDN'T YOU SAY
A MODEL LIKE ME..
...IS ON A LOFTY PEAK TOO?

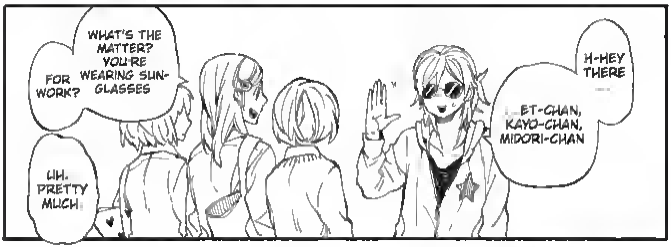
AND HOW TALL IS YOUR LOFTY PEAK?
HA-HA-HA!
KNEE-HIGH?
THE GIRLS I THOUGHT WERE MY FANS..
ARE AS SNIDE AS DEVILS.

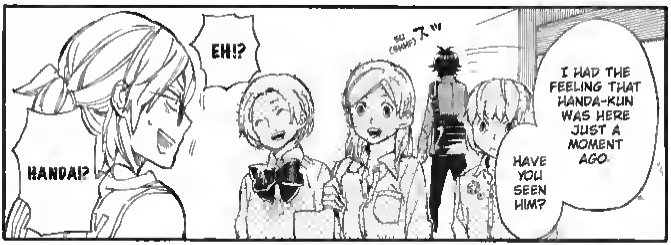
...BUT ASKING THE GIRLS ISN'T GETTING ME ANYWHERE.
HE'S GOT SOME SOURCE OF POPULARITY I DON'T...
KUNI (SIGH)
キーン
KOOOON (SIGH)
コーン
KAAAN (SIGH)
キーン
IT LOOKS LIKE...
HANDA KUN!
GOOD-BYE!
IT'S HANDA KUN!
HANDA KUN!
...I'LL JUST HAVE TO SEE HIS SECRET FOR MYSELF!!

ANY PLOYS TO GAIN POPULARITY MUST HAPPEN AFTER SCHOOL.
BECAUSE HE DOES WORK AS A CALLIGRAPHER..
...HE'S NOT IN ANY CLUBS.
DON'T TELL ME...
...HE COULD BE BUYING THEM OFF WITH MONEY!?
...AS A GRASS-ROOTS MOVE-MENT?
MAYBE HE'S SECRETLY HITTING ON GIRLS.
I'M GOING TO EXPOSE...
KOSO (GREAT)
KOSO
HEH HEH HEH...
LET'S GO, KAWA-FUJI!
SOME WEIRDO'S FOLLOWING YOU AROUND
HANDA
...YOUR DIRTY LITTLE SECRET...

GRR!
A GROUP OF GIRLS ZEROING IN FROM AHEAD.
KYA!
KYA!
TIME TO DISCOVER THE TRUTH ABOUT SEI HANDA!!
...WHILE BEING A TOTAL PLAYER OUTSIDE?
DOES HE PRETEND TO BE A HARD-LINER AT SCHOOL...
!?
HE VANISHED!?


OH!
IT'S REO-KUN!
HOW CAN SOMEBODY JUST VANISH!?
WHERE'D HE GO!?


WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU'RE WEARING SUN-GLASSES FOR WORK?
UH. PRETTY MUCH.
H-HEY THERE
...ET-CHAN, KAYO-CHAN, MIDORI-CHAN


HANDA!?
EH!?
I HAD THE FEELING THAT HANDA-KUN WAS HERE JUST A MOMENT AGO.
HAVE YOU SEEN HIM?

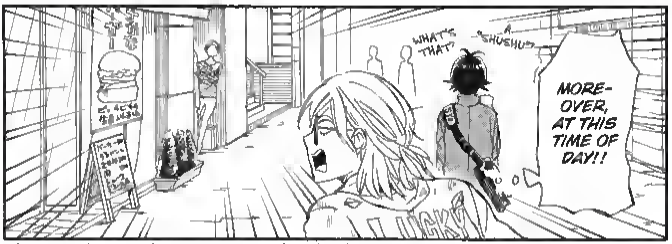
HE'S GETTING AWAY!
THAT HANDA!!
WHAAT? TOO BAD!
...HAVEN'T SEEN HIM.
UH..
NO. I..

SURE! BYE NOW!
LUCKY STAR
GOOD LUCK WITH YOU WORK!
...I LOST SIGHT OF HANDA!!
だっ
DASH
WHILE DEALING WITH THOSE GIRLS...
SHUUU
SHUUU
DAMN IT!
HANDA ...!!
HANDA ...
HANDA ...
HANDA ...
HANDA?
!?
LUCKY STAR

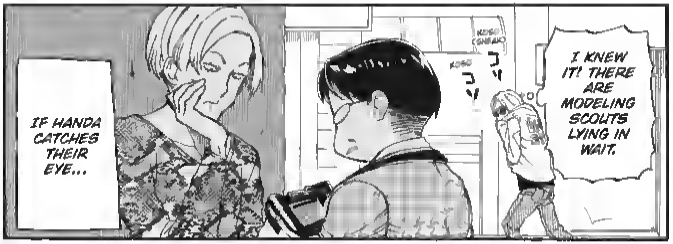
WHAT'S HE STARING AT SO INTENTLY?
!!
A CAT!
WHY!?
WHY'S HE GAZING SO ADORINGLY AT A CAT!?
IF HE LIKES CATS, HE COULD JUST PET IT!!
COME ON, GIVE IT A REST!
THE CAT SEEMS BOTHERED BY HIM TOO.
SOWA
SOWA CARESSLESSO

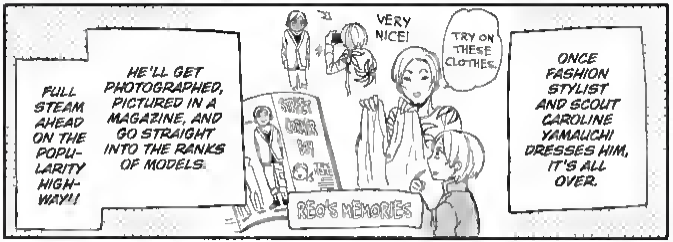
WHEW!
AFTER THIRTY MINUTES GAZING AT THE CAT...
HE FINALLY MOVED.
WHAAT?
WHAT'S THE SECRET BEHIND THIS CAT?
I'M NOT HOLDING IT VERY WELL..
...BUT IT ISN'T GETTING UPSET.
THAT'S IT!!
THAT GAZE MUST BE HANDA'S SECRET.
INSTEAD OF SPREADING HIS CHARM AROUND...
HE SEDUCES WOMEN WITH A FLASH OF HIS GAZE!!
I SEE IT NOW! THAT GIVES ME A CLUE TO YOUR POPULARITY SKILLS!!
PRACTICING YOUR TECHNIQUE ON A CAT
AH-CHOO!
CAT ALLERGY

SIGN: WAKASUGI AVENUE



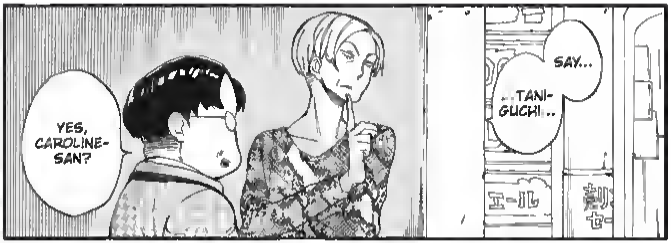
SIGNS: FISH BURGER, FLOPPING FRESH FISH INSIDE / BURGER, BIG BURGER, FISH, BEEF DRINKS


IF HANDA CATCHES THEIR EYE...
I KNEW IT! THERE ARE MODELING SCOUTS LYING IN WAIT.

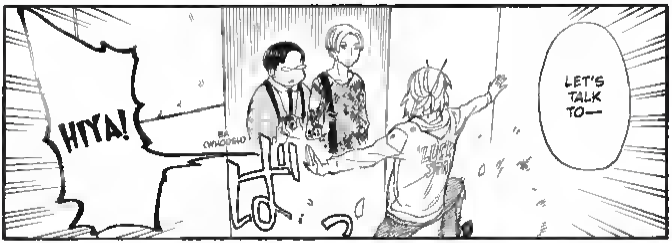

FULL STEAM AHEAD ON THE POPULARITY HIGHWAY!!
HE'LL GET PHOTOGRAPHED, PICTURED IN A MAGAZINE, AND GO STRAIGHT INTO THE RANKS OF MODELS.
VERY NICE!
TRY ON THESE CLOTHES.
REO'S MEMORIES
ONCE FASHION STYLIST AND SCOUT CAROLINE YAMAUCHI DRESSES HIM, IT'S ALL OVER.

FWA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!
GETTING BURNED BY HIM IN THE MODELING WORLD AS WELL...

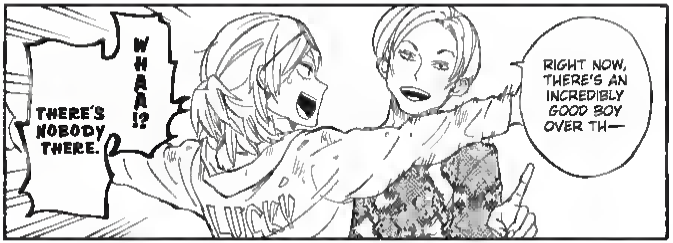
...I CAN'T ALLOW TO HAPPEN!
HA HA!
HA HA!
HA HA!
...IS THE ONE THING...


SAY...
...TANIGUCHI...
YES, CAROLINE-SAN?

DON'T YOU THINK THAT BOY'S GOOD?
YEAH.
THAT DARK-HAIRED BOY LOOKS QUITE NICE.


LET'S TALK TO—
HIYA!
BA (WHOOSH)

I SEE YOU'RE HARD AT WORK, CAROLINE-SAN!
WHEEZE—
WHEEZE—
MY, IF IT ISN'T REO.
WHY DO YOU LOOK SO DIRTY?


RIGHT NOW, THERE'S AN INCREDIBLY GOOD BOY OVER TH—
WHAA!?
THERE'S NOBODY THERE.

IS THERE SUCH A PLACE AS A SHUSHU STORE?
NO-BODY'S THERE!
NO-BODY!
A BOY WITH AN INCREDIBLY KEEN FEEL.
IT CLICKED WITH ME.

DOES A "SHUSHU" HAVE TO DO WITH LOCOMOTIVES?
I HAVE TO GO TALK TO HIM!
WHA?
LOOK, IT'S THE ONE THERE IN THE UNI-FORM!
HUH?

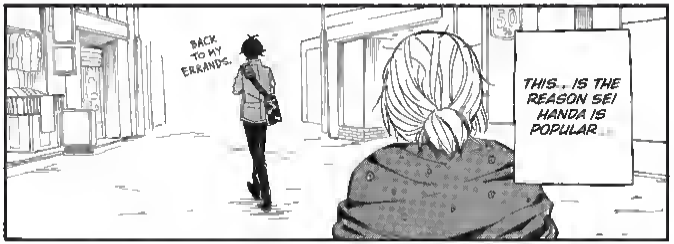
!?
BASHIIN

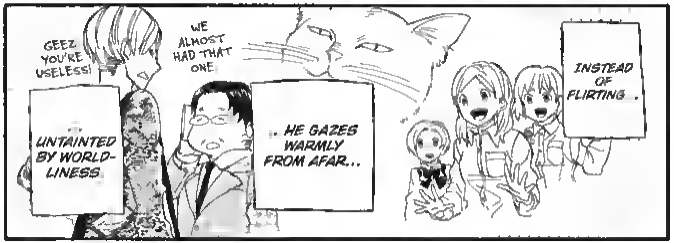
I'M WORKING HERE!
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO DEAL WITH YOU!!
ON MY FACE!?
ACK! A QUARREL?
HUH!?
WOULD YOU TRY THESE ON?
PAKA (SPREAD)
HEY! YOU OVER THERE!
!?
HEY, REO!
ANY-THING BUT THAT!
GAAAH!
I DON'T GET WHAT THIS IS ABOUT..
...BUT I'VE GOTTEN MIXED UP WITH SOME REAL CHARACTERS.
AND WHO DO YOU HAVE TO THANK FOR BECOMING A MODEL!?
I WON'T LET YOU DRESS HIM IN THOSE CLOTHES!

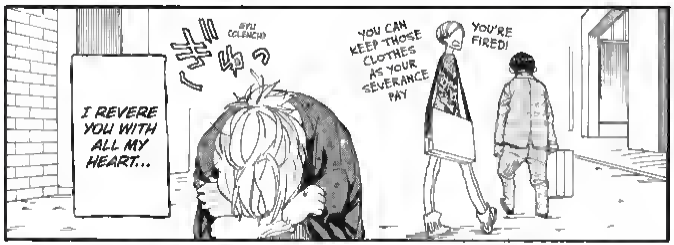
CRAP, THIS IS WAY TOO SHADY!!
NOW!! PUT THESE CLOTHES ON.
WHEEZE—
WHEEZE—
DAMN IT...
IT'S ALL OVER!
JUST WEAR WHAT I TELL YOU TO...
...AND YOU'LL RACE UP THE LADDER TO STARDOM.
HAVE I LOST EVERYTHING TO HIM?
BEING A MODEL WAS THE ONLY THING I HAD TO BE PROUD OF!
HAGA CONSIGO
WHAT ARE YOU PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT?

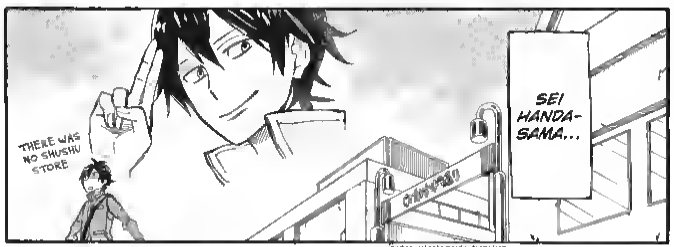
RIGHT NOW, THE ONE WHO NEEDS THESE CLOTHES...
...IS NOT ME, BUT THIS PERSON.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THOSE CLOTHES ARE WORTH...
WHA ...?
...SO PLEASE TALK TO THOSE WHO DO INSTEAD...
WHA ...?
...BUT I DON'T NEED THEM...
WHAT IS THIS?
ドロドロ
NOW...
...IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME...
MAYBE HOME-LESS...?
MUST BE HARD FOR ONE SO YOUNG
HE WAS PRETTY GRUBBY..
THIS FEELING OF WARMTH....


BACK TO MY ERRANDS.
THIS . . IS THE REASON SEI HANDA IS POPULAR

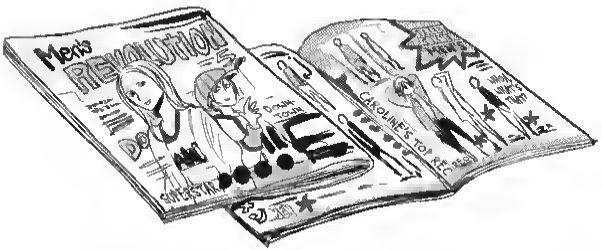

GEEZ YOU'RE USELESS!
WE ALMOST HAD THAT ONE
INSTEAD OF FLIRTING .
UNTAINTED BY WORLDLINESS
. . HE GAZES WARMLY FROM AFAR...


(FLL COLLAPSE)
I REVERE YOU WITH ALL MY HEART...
YOU CAN KEEP THOSE CLOTHES AS YOUR SEVERANCE PAY
YOU'RE FIRED!


THERE WAS NO SHUSHU STORE
SEI HANDA-SAMA...

THE NEXT DAY
REO!
DID YOU REALLY QUIT MODELING!?
YEAH
NEWS TRAVELS FAST.
I READ ON A BLOG THAT YOU MADE CAROLINE MAD!
I DIDN'T SO MUCH QUIT AS GET FIRED
I DIDN'T HAVE THE TALENT FOR IT.
WOW.
I'M SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT FROM YOU, REO.
YOU SEEM MORE GROWN-UP
HA-HA-HA!

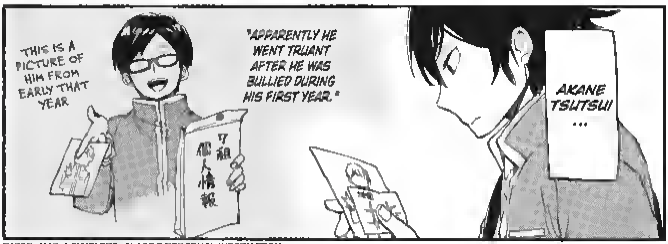
SIGN: METRO BUS


Men's
REVOLUTION
Drink
CAROLINE'S TOP

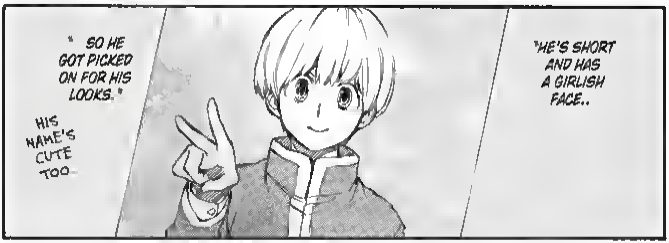
Handa-
kun

CLASS 2-7. SEI HANDA'S CLASS...
...HAS A TRUANT STUDENT.

HANDA-KUN!
COULD YOU DELIVER THESE PRINT-OUTS TO AKANE TSUTSUI-KUN?
YOU'RE MAKING AN OBVIOUSLY RELUCTANT FACE...
ISN'T TSUTSUI THE RECLUSE WHO DOESN'T COME TO SCHOOL?
YOU SHOULD GO INSTEAD OF ME.
I'M SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU WITH THIS REQUEST, HANDA-KUN.
.BUT THE JOB OF CLASS REP IS ASTON-ISHINGLY BUSY
MY WORK'S DOUBLED
I ORGANIZE THE STUDY GUIDES
HAVE TO VISIT THE STUDENT COUNCIL TOO
AND DO THE CLASS TRIP PLANNING FORMS
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU'D HANDLE IT ALL?
BUT HANDA WASN'T ENOUGH OF A DEMON TO SAY THAT ALOUD.


THIS IS A PICTURE OF HIM FROM EARLY THAT YEAR
"APPARENTLY HE WENT TRUANT AFTER HE WAS BULLIED DURING HIS FIRST YEAR."
AKANE TSUTSUI ...

PAPER: MAP / ENVELOPE: CLASS 7 PERSONAL INFORMATION



ピンポン
PINPON (PING-PONG)
ピンポーン
PINPOOON
ピンポーン
PINPOOON
ピンポーン……
HUH?
IS HE OUT?
LUCKY ME!
I'LL SLIP IT THROUGH THE MAIL SLOT AND GO!
GORO (SHOVE)
HEY.
YOU GOT BUSI-NESS AT MY PLACE?

SCREW WITH ME, AND YOU'RE A DEAD MAN.

HE'S LIKE SOME WRESTLING VILLAIN...
Y-YIKES...

YEAH, I'M AKANE. SO?
UM... I HAVE BUSINESS WITH AKANE TSUTSUI-KUN, WHO LIVES HERE.

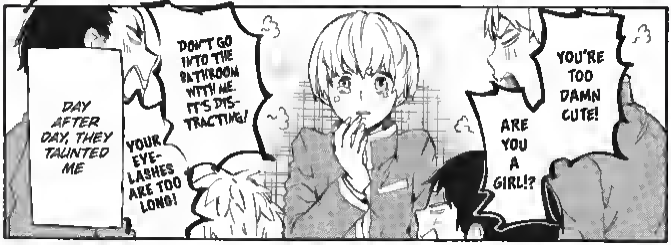
FOR REAL!?
THAT'S ME.
THIS IS HIS PHOTO
I'M LOOKING FOR THE BULLIED RECLUSE AKANE TSUTSUI-KUN.
UH, NO..

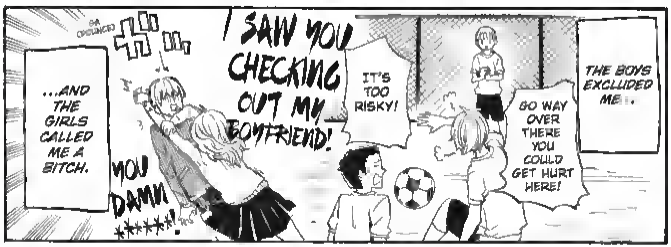
DID HE GET WHOLE-BODY PLASTIC SURGERY!?
WH-WH-WHAT'S WITH THIS TRANSFORMATION!? HE DOESN'T RESEMBLE THE PHOTO AT ALL!!
WHY DO YOU HAVE A PHOTO OF ME FROM LAST YEAR?
BA (SWATCH)
THAT DAMN GLASSES GUY...
...IS CLEARLY TOYING WITH ME!!
UH, NO... I JUST CAME TO DELIVER THIS...
ANYHOW, THE TEACHER SENT YOU TO BRING ME BACK TO SCHOOL, RIGHT?
LOOKING AT IT MAKES ME SICK!
NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY...

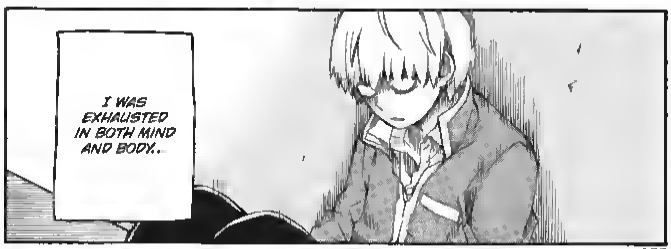
...I'M NOT GOING BACK!

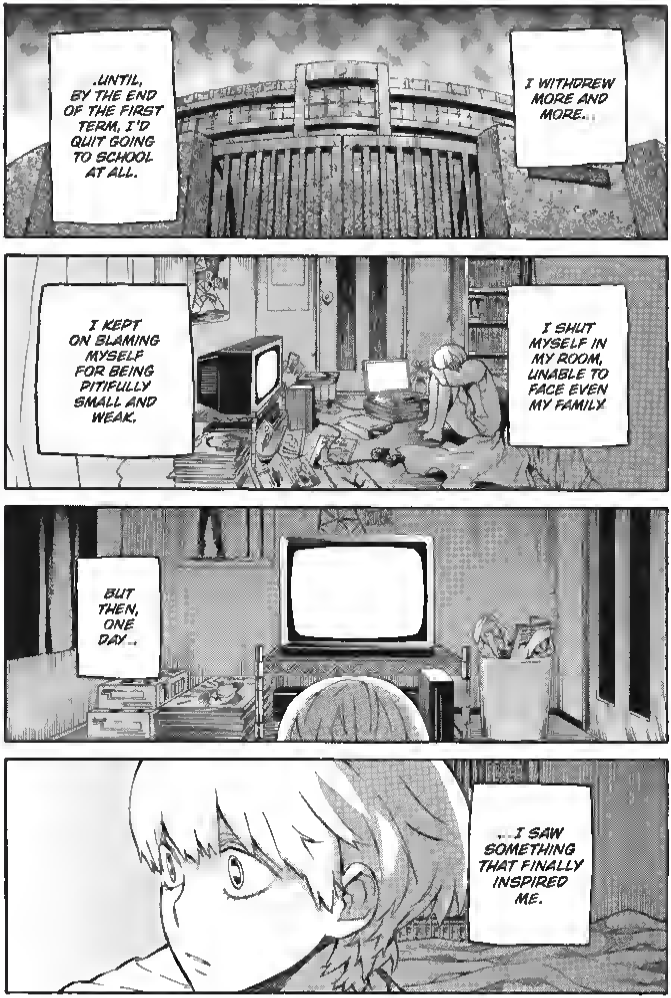
HEH HEH HEH
DON'T CAVE TO THREATS, HUH?
STILL...
...THIS GUY DIDN'T EVEN BLINK..
I LIKE YOU.
I'LL LET YOU HEAR SOME OF MY STORY
IT HAPPENED TOO SUDDENLY FOR HIM TO REACT

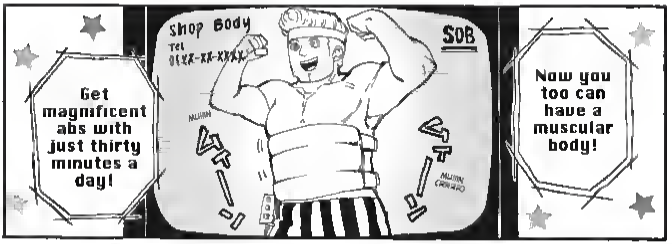
A YEAR AGO, I WAS GETTING BULLIED.
LITTLE SHIT!
YOU'VE GOT A GIRLIE FACE!
WHAT A SISSY!

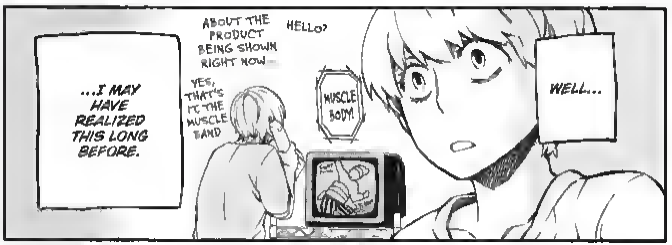

YOU'RE TOO DAMN CUTE!
ARE YOU A GIRL!?
DON'T GO INTO THE BATHROOM WITH ME. IT'S DISTRACTING!
YOUR EYELASHES ARE TOO LONG!
DAY AFTER DAY, THEY TAUNTED ME


THE BOYS EXCLUDED ME..
GO WAY OVER THERE YOU COULD GET HURT HERE!
IT'S TOO RISKY!
I SAW YOU CHECKING OUT MY BOYFRIEND!
YOU DAMN *****!
...AND THE GIRLS CALLED ME A BITCH.


I WAS EXHAUSTED IN BOTH MIND AND BODY..


...UNTIL, BY THE END OF THE FIRST TERM, I'D QUIT GOING TO SCHOOL AT ALL.
I WITHDREW MORE AND MORE...
I KEPT ON BLAMING MYSELF FOR BEING PITIFULLY SMALL AND WEAK.
I SHUT MYSELF IN MY ROOM, UNABLE TO FACE EVEN MY FAMILY.
BUT THEN, ONE DAY...
...I SAW SOMETHING THAT FINALLY INSPIRED ME.

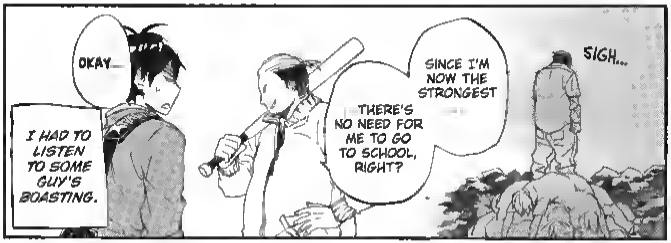

Get magnificent abs with just thirty minutes a day!
Shop Body
Tel 0[XX-XX-XXXX
SOB
Now you too can have a muscular body!

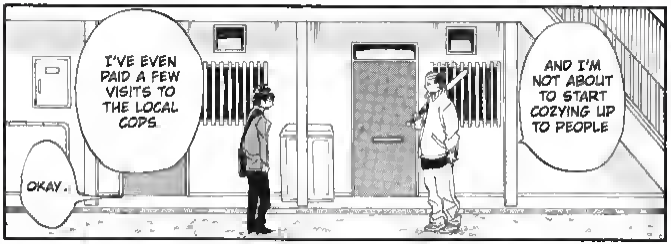

...I MAY HAVE REALIZED THIS LONG BEFORE.
ABOUT THE PRODUCT BEING SHOWN RIGHT NOW...
HELLO?
YES, THAT'S IT! THE MUSCLE BAND
MUSCLE BODY
WELL...

...WAS WHAT MADE MY SCHOOL LIFE MISERABLE
THAT LACK OF POWER...
WHAT I DIDN'T HAVE WAS "POWER."

...GET STRONG!!
I WILL...

HAAH (PANTING)
OH MY GOOD-NESS!
MOTHER
HALF A YEAR LATER, I WAS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON.
...I PROCEEDED TO OVERPOWER EVERY LAST PLINK WHO HUNG AROUND TOWN.
GAH
HEH HEH...
QUIT SHAKING DOWN KIDS!
HAVING ACQUIRED STRENGTH...
...I WAS NOW THE STRONGEST MAN.
GRAA
AHHH!
Young boy
UNLIKE BEFORE...
I HAD SHOWN MY POWER!!
SELF IMAGE
THERE WERE NO PLINKS AROUND HERE WHO'D DARE OPPOSE ME.
IN LESS THAN A MONTH...


I HAD TO LISTEN TO SOME GUY'S BOASTING.
OKAY...
THERE'S NO NEED FOR ME TO GO TO SCHOOL, RIGHT?
SINCE I'M NOW THE STRONGEST
SIGH...


OKAY.
I'VE EVEN PAID A FEW VISITS TO THE LOCAL COPS.
AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO START COZYING UP TO PEOPLE

I JUST HAVE TO HAND THESE OVER, AND THEN I CAN LEAVE
TO TRY FOR REVENGE, RIGHT?
THERE'RE NO GUYS WITH THE BACK BONE..
ANYWAY, THERE'RE STILL THE PRINT-OUTS

BIKU (SHIVER)
BIKU (SHIVER)
TAKE IT.

DOES HE WANT TO GIVE ME THE ENVELOPE?
TAKE IT
WH-WHY THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN!?
IT'S A FEINT!
NO, WAIT...
AFTER SURVIVING COUNTLESS SCENES OF CARNAGE, I CAN TELL EXACTLY WHAT HE'S DOING.
AH!
YURA COMMAND
YURA
HE'S JUST BARELY OUT OF RANGE OF MY WEAPON.
...AND PLANS TO MAKE ME SUBMIT WITH HIS POWER!?
SO, HE'S REALIZED THAT I CAN'T BE PERSUADED WITH WORDS...

THIS GUY'S PRETTY USED TO FIGHTING!
TAKE IT ALREADY.
I CAN'T GET WITHIN RANGE.
!?
HE RAISED HIS LEFT HAND FOR HIS BAG...
MY TOOLS ARE HEAVY
SOME-THING'S COMING!!

MY SHOULDER'S STIFF
...WITH A PERFECTLY CALM FACE...
HE'S GIVING OFF A BIZARRE AURA...
THIS CAN'T BE REAL.
WHY AM I TREMBLING?
UM...
I'M THE ONE WHO SMASHED ALL THE PUNKS!!
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU TOOK THIS—
HUH?
AKANE TSU-TSUI!!

AKANE TSUTSUI, YOU BASTARD!!
I FOUND YOU!
YEAH?

I OWE YOU PLENTY!
I'VE COME TO PAY YOU BACK FOR BEATING UP MY CREW!

MORE FREAKS...
YOU'RE PUNK HIGH SCHOOLERS FROM THE NEXT TOWN OVER!

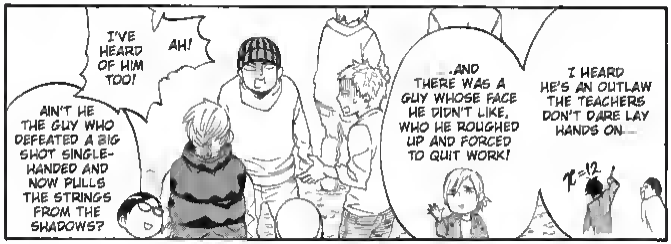
GET READY FOR DOUBLE PAYBACK!!
THERE'S LOTSA GUYS WHO'D LOVE TO GET SOME REVENGE ON YOU
HAH HAH!

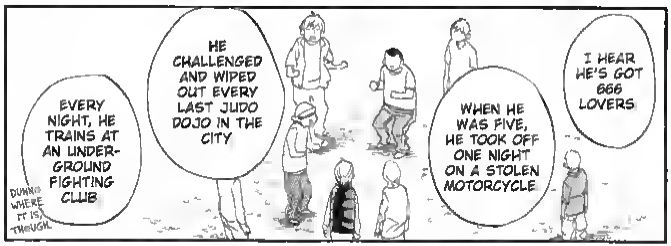
NOW A MOB!?
I ALREADY CAN'T DEAL WITH THAT FIRST GUY!
URK!
SON OF A BITCH!
!?
WHAT THE HELL SHOULD I—
WHY'S HE HANDING ME THE ENVELOPE..
..ALL OF A SUDDEN?
THERE. DELIV-ERED.
NOW I'M GOING.
NO WAY!! IS HE SAYING HE'LL FIGHT ALONGSIDE ME!?

GRAAHHH!
GET 'IM, BOYS!
COME AT ME, PUNKS!
STEP ASIDE PLEASE I'M LEAVING..
EXCUSE ME
HEH-HEH-HEH.. I DON'T KNOW THAT GUY'S NAME..
BUT IT'S GREAT TO HAVE SOMEONE WATCHING MY BACK.
GRAAHHH!
EVEN IF WE LOSE TODAY..
. I WON'T FORGET MY DEBT OF GRATITUDE.

GUI (TUG)
GRAAH
HH!
HEY! HOLD IT, YOU!
AREN'T YOU TSUTSUI'S PAL?
WHAT?
DON'T GO TOUCHING MY PRECIOUS TOOLS!
TCH!
BA (WHAP)
EEK!
I'M SOR-RY!
WASN'T THAT GUY SE! HANDA?
H-HEY..
A CHILL RAN UP MY SPINE...
WHAT WAS THAT STEELY GLARE!?
TCH..

HANDA?
WHO'S THAT?
"WHO'S THAT"!?
HOW CAN YOU NOT KNOW, DUMB-ASS!?
HE'S FAMOUS!

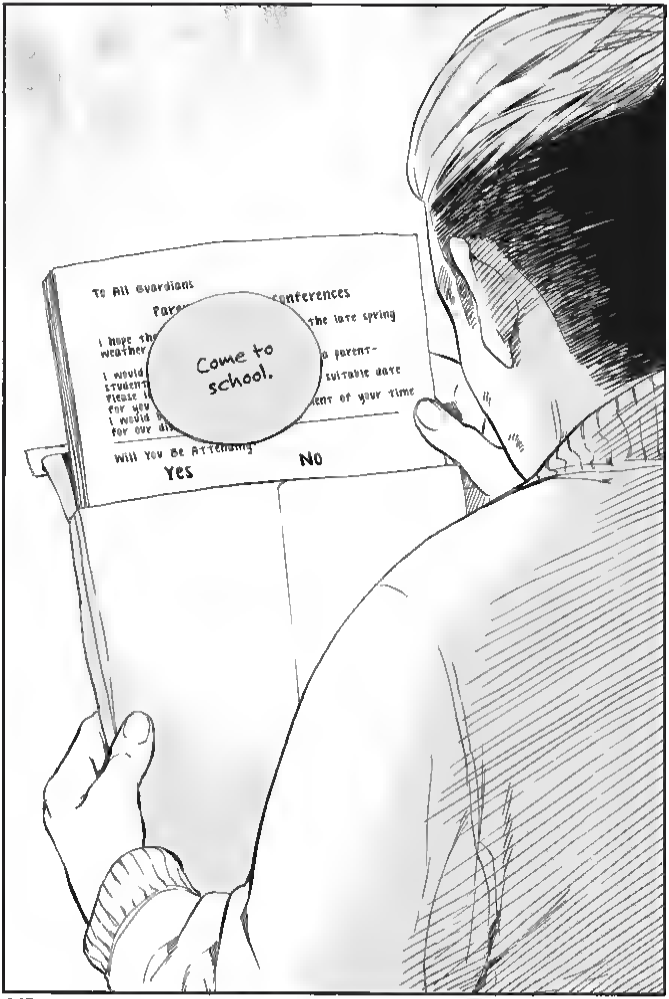

I HEARD HE'S AN OUTLAW THE TEACHERS DON'T DARE LAY HANDS ON—
...AND THERE WAS A GUY WHOSE FACE HE DIDN'T LIKE, WHO HE ROUGHED UP AND FORCED TO QUIT WORK!
AH!
I'VE HEARD OF HIM TOO!
AIN'T HE THE GUY WHO DEFEATED A BIG SHOT SINGLE-HANDED AND NOW PULLS THE STRINGS FROM THE SHADOWS?

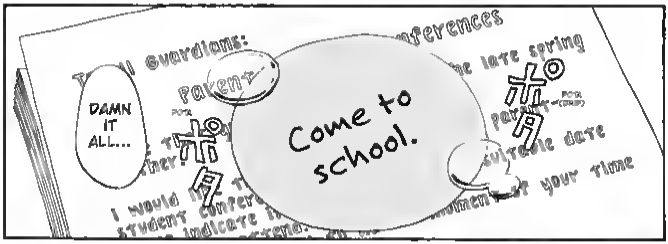

I HEAR HE'S GOT 666 LOVERS
WHEN HE WAS FIVE, HE TOOK OFF ONE NIGHT ON A STOLEN MOTORCYCLE
HE CHALLENGED AND WIPED OUT EVERY LAST JUDO DOJO IN THE CITY
EVERY NIGHT, HE TRAINS AT AN UNDER-GROUND FIGHTING CLUB
DUNNO WHERE IT IS THOUGH.

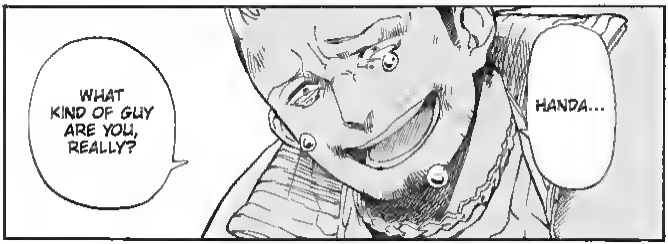
HAN-DA!?
THE BEAR KILLER!?
!?
HE'S EVEN KILLED A BEAR!?

URK!
WE JUST GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL.
TSUTSUI!! WHAT'S YOUR CONNECTION WITH HANDA!?
I'M DROPPING OUT.
.....
IF HANDA'S WITH HIM, WE'RE DEAD MEAT
LIAR!! A WILD MAN LIKE HIM WOULDN'T GET INVOLVED FOR JUST ANYONE!!
HEY!
I'M GONNA GO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE.
SO LONG!
SAME HERE!
I'M NOT READY TO DIE!
YOU GUYS!
Good
.....
TCH!
A LUCKY BREAK.

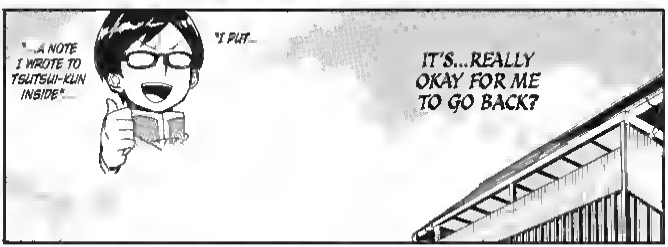
WHAT THE HELL'S BEEN HAPPENING AT SCHOOL WHILE I WAS GONE?
SO HE'S... THAT HANDA GUY, HUH?
BUT I CAN'T GO BACK TO SCHOOL AFTER I'VE CHANGED SO MUCH.
I WANT TO KNOW ...
ON THAT NOTE, WHAT'S THIS THING HE MADE SUCH A DEAL ABOUT DELIVERING TO ME?
KASA (RUSTLE)
カサ
AH!


To All Guardians
Come to school.
Will You Be Attending
Yes
No


Guardians:
Parent
DAMN IT ALL....
Come to school.
late spring
Parent (Guardian)
suitable date
your time


WHAT KIND OF GUY ARE YOU, REALLY?
HANDA...

UHH...
URK...


"...A NOTE I WROTE TO TSUTSUI-KUN INSIDE"...
"I PUT...
IT'S...REALLY OKAY FOR ME TO GO BACK?

THE NEXT DAY
HANDA-KUN!
DID YOU GO TO TSUTSUI-KUN'S PLACE?
YEAH..
YOU TOLD ME TO DO IT, REMEMBER?
I GAVE HIM THE PRINT-OUTS.
IT HAD TO BE YOU!
?
I?
OH!
I WAS SHOCKED WHEN THE TEACHER TOLD ME THIS JUST NOW.
GARA (RATTLE)
HE'S COMING TO CLASS!

ドスッ
(SUSUN)

WHA- WHAT THE? THAT'S REALLY HIM?
HE'S NOT LIKE THE PHOTO..
SO HE DIDN'T KNOW EITHER
UH WELL..
I'M SURE GLAD THAT HE CAME
HANDA-SAN...
IT'D BE ARROGANT FOR AN OFF-BASE GUY LIKE ME TO WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH YOU.
SO FOR NOW, THINK OF ME AS YOUR PERSONAL SECURITY WHO'LL KEEP YOU SAFE
I'LL JUST BE...
SO (CHILL)
...WATCHING OVER YOU...

...UNTIL THE TIME WHEN WE CAN JOIN TOGETHER IN WARM FRIENDSHIP.
WHAT DID I EVER DO TO YOU!?
WHAT DID I DO!?
HE NOTICED ME!
SOMEBODY, SAVE ME!

TO BE CONTINUED IN HANDA-KUN 2

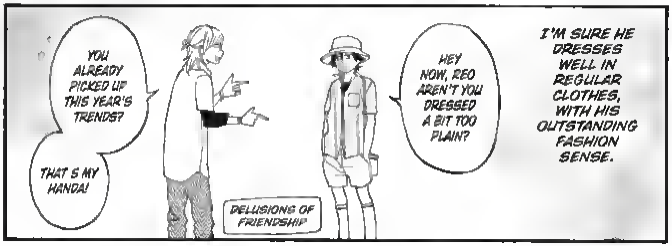
Handa-
kun

HANDA-KUN'S DESK
I BAKED COOKIES YESTERDAY ♡
I WONDER IF HANDA-KUN WILL LIKE THEM...
KYA! HE'S HERE!
BY CHAPS
すっ
KYA! HE PICKED UP MY COOKIES!
TCH!
AND IT WAS ALL NICELY WRAPPED TOO!
LIKE IT WAS NOTHING!!
HE PUT IT IN THE CLASS LOST AND FOUND!!
落としもの

TAILING

HANDA-KUN TAILING IN PROGRESS
AS THE CLASS FACILITATOR
...I MUST NOTE EACH STUDENT'S PERSONAL INFORMATION IN DETAIL
I'D AT LEAST LIKE TO KNOW WHERE HANDA-KUN LIVES
HEH HEH HEH...
TODAY'S THE DAY I'LL FINALLY APPROACH HANDA-KUN'S TERRITORY.
THOUGH HE ALWAYS MANAGES TO GIVE ME THE SLIP.
I HAVE TO GUARD HANDA-SAN SO THAT HE CAN GET HOME SAFELY!
I'D BETTER RUN!
(A CHART)
CRAP, I'LL LOSE SIGHT OF HIM!
HE REALLY DOES HAVE IT ROUGH...
DAMN IT!
WHY ARE THEY FOLLOWING ME!?
HANDA-KUN'S FAST!!
I'LL GET TO KNOW HANDA!
THIS IS FOR HANDA-SAN!

...WE'D HAVE SO MUCH FUN..
.. GO SHOPPING WITH HANDA SOMEDAY..
IF I COULD...


YOU ALREADY PICKED UP THIS YEAR'S TRENDS?
THAT'S MY HANDA!
DELUSIONS OF FRIENDSHIP
HEY NOW, REO AREN'T YOU DRESSED A BIT TOO PLAIN?
I'M SURE HE DRESSES WELL IN REGULAR CLOTHES, WITH HIS OUTSTANDING FASHION SENSE.

THE WORLD WOULD NEVER GET ENOUGH OF OUR DOUBLE SUPER-STARDOM!
HEH HEH..
AHHH..
KYA! IT'S HANDA AND REO COLLABING! KYA!
YOU GUYS LOOK GREAT! ARE YOU MODELS?

YOU'RE ALWAYS WEARING THAT...
HEYA!
HANDA-KUN'S REGULAR CLOTHES

HEY!
DID TSUTSUI COME BACK FOR REAL?
THE GUY STOPPED COMING TO SCHOOL...
...JUST 'COS WE TEASED HIM SOME LAST YEAR
LET'S GO OVER AND SAY, "HI!"
HEH-HEH-HEH! YOU THINK THE SIGHT OF OUR FACES WILL MAKE HIM START CRYING?
THIS IS GONNA BE GREAT!
SERI-OUSLY!
PAPERI CONKRO
NAAHHH!

COMMON HONORIFICS

no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.

-san: The Japanese equivalent of *Mr./Mrs./Miss.* If a situation calls for politeness, this is the first-safe honorific.

-sama: Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.

-kun: Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.

-chan: An affectionate honorific. Indicates family unity; used mostly in reference to girls, also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.

-sensei: A Japanese term of respect commonly used for teachers, but can also refer to doctors, writers, and artists.

Calligraphy: Japanese calligraphy has a long history and tradition, with roots stemming from ancient China. One of the traditions carried over was the Chinese expression of the "Four Treasures," which refers to the brush, ink, paper, and inkstone used in calligraphy. Traditionally, an inkstick—solidified ink—is ground against an inkstone filled with water in order to produce ink with which to write. This time-consuming process helped to teach patience, which is important in the act of calligraphy. However, modern advances have developed a bottled liquid ink, commonly used by beginners and within the Japanese school system.

PAGE 10

yaroo: Coarse word for "guy," written out phonetically with nonstandard kanji—literally means "wild dew/exposure." This style of writing out words is a common tough guy thing, especially using kanji with rougher and tougher meanings.

PAGE 11

Daishouen: An actual Japanese office and stationery supply company. The name also shows up in *Barakamon*.

PAGE 19

cursive: This is an actual style of speedy and connected calligraphy writing known as *teppitsu*.

PAGE 47

Nanda's "TAI-SYO" bag: "*Taishou*" can refer to the kanji compound words "grand prize," "boss," and "object."

PAGE 53

NOMO brand eraser: A very common parody name used for the actual eraser brand *MONO*.

PAGE 61

Kami-sama: Silly pun on *kami-sama* (god + honorific) but using the kanji for the sound-alike word for paper.

PAGE 78

vote tallies: In Japan, tallies are counted out by sets of the kanji for "rectangle," which uses five strokes.

PAGE 110

Wahnsogi Avenue: "Wahnsugi" is an actual Japanese person and place name, but it also works as a pun meaning "too young."

shushu: The Japanese word for the flower-like hair band called a "scrunchie."

PAGE 112

"Niya": What Gao originally said was "*sharasu*," a greeting used by pop singer Nana Mizuki.

PAGE 147

parent-student conference: In Japan, parent-teacher conferences held at school are literally called "three-person conferences," because they include the student as well.

PAGE 162

The Giant Radish: Likely a reference to *The Giant Turnip*, an old Russian folktale the first-graders played in *Barakamon*, Volume 7.

HANDA-KUN NEWS

Vol.HND

I sincerely thank you all for buying Volume 1 of *Handa-kun*! Your passionate support since the start of serialization and requests for a book release have succeeded in reaching the editorial department. And so, although only Volume 1 has gone on sale, they have planned an intense Handa Fan Club campaign for *Monthly Shonen Gangan*! Issues will include gorgeous packins as well as a request form to send in for additional special items. Since these items will only be available in this premier campaign, please be sure to look for it!

The highly-popular *Handa-kun* is now running in *Monthly Shonen Gangan*!

Monthly Shonen Gangan Aug - Sept - Oct issues
Three Consecutive Issues of Handa Packins!!

Sept. issue Packin (on sale 8/12)
◀ Handa-kun Papercraft Graphig

Oct. issue Packin (on sale 9/12)
IC Card Sticker & Book Cover

Aug. issue Packin (on sale 7/12)
▲ Handa-kun Mechanical Pencil

Handa-kun & *BARAKAMON* Beginning Double Serialization!

I humbly request that you all continue to support *Handa-kun*, *BARAKAMON*, and *Monthly Shonen Gangan*!

↑ Satsuki Yoshino a specially-designed rubber straps in a gorgeous set of five! The total charge will be ¥1,000 (+handling)

Rubber Straps Send-Away **First Wave**

Monthly Shonen Gangan Aug & Sept Issues Will Include Send Away Request Forms for a *BARAKAMON* Rubber Strap Set!

I believe many of you are already aware of this, but *Handa-kun* is a spin-off of the popular comic *BARAKAMON*.

Unbelievably, the main series *BARAKAMON* will now be running in *Monthly Shonen Gangan* along with *Handa-kun*, starting with the August issue! This campaign was arranged to commemorate their double serialization!

■ Designs are tentative.

\ SERIOUSLY... LEAVE ME ALONE.. /

And in the next volume...

On sale now!!

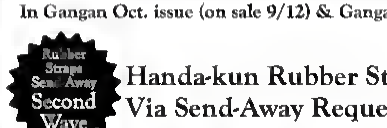
Handa-kun

Vol. 2

In Gangan Oct. issue (on sale 9/12) & Gangan Nov. issue (on sale 10/11)

Rubber Straps Send-Away Second Wave

Handa-kun Rubber Strap Sets Available Via Send-Away Request Form!!



※Designs are tentative

Designed by Handa's Army

Superstar HND Goods Prize Campaign Slated to Commence!!

Handa-kun info is also distributed on occasion via the *BARAKAMON/Handa-kun* public Twitter account!

https://twitter.com/go_barakamon

※Please note that all promotional items presented in this segment were only available to readers in Japan at the time of the original volume's release

MEANWHILE, IN

BARAKAMON

TWO
ONE
OHH! SHE'S STANDIN' UP!
S'FINE.
GRAMPA, CAN WE TOUCH THE BABY?
STAND UP! STAND UP!
KEEP GOIN!
AH HA-HA-HA! HER CHEEKS'RE CHUBBY! GROSS!
OOH!
OH! A GRASS-HOPPER!
WAUGH! SHE GOT DROOL ON ME!
YOU TRY EATIN' IT.
PUT IT IN AN INSECT CAGE
FUN! FUN!
FUN!
.....

Handa-kun 1

Satsuki Yoshino

Translation/Adaptation: Krista Shipley, Karie Shipley
Lettering: Lys Blakeslee

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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